

Osborn Hill School

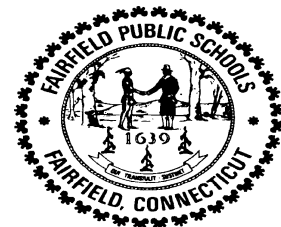


Family Handbook

2023-2024

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS' MISSION:

The mission of the Fairfield Public Schools, in partnership with families and community, is to ensure that every student acquires the knowledge and skills needed to be a lifelong learner, responsible citizen, and successful participant in an ever-changing global society through a comprehensive educational program.



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General School Information

**OSBORN HILL SCHOOL
760 STILLSON RD,
FAIRFIELD, CT 06824**

**PHONE: (203) 255 - 8340
FAX: (203) 255 - 8213**

WEB SITE: <http://fairfieldschools.org/schools/oh>

Leadership Team

Principal	Mr. David Hudspeth
Assistant Principal	Mrs. Patricia Day
Language Arts Specialist	Mrs. Colleen Morello
Language Arts Specialist	Mrs. Cheryl Smith
Library Media Center Specialist	Ms. Sandy Kosh
Math/Science Specialist	Mrs. Beth Greer
Psychologist	Mrs. Audra Dressler
Psychologist	Ms. Lindsay Feducia

Office Staff - Hours 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

School Secretary	Mrs. Theresa Budlowski
AM Part-Time Secretary	Mrs. Abby Beatty
PM Part-Time Secretary	Mrs. Donna Callahan
School Nurse	Mr. James Capuano

Custodial Staff

Head Custodian	Mr. Bill Augustine
Night Custodian	Mr. Carlos Moreno
Night Custodian	Mr. Qamil Kalici

School Hours

Grades K-5	8:55 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.
Early Dismissal	8:55 A.M. to 1:40 P.M.
Delayed Opening	10:55 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

**Student drop-off begins at 8:45 A.M. Please do not drop-off students before that time
(unless specific arrangements have been made) as there is no adult supervision available until 8:45 A.M.**

Other Important Phone Numbers

PHONE NUMBERS		WEB SITES	
ABSENTEE CALL-IN LINE:	203-255-8417	FPS Web Site:	www.fairfieldschools.org
EARLY CLOSING HOTLINE:	203-255-TALK (8255)	PTA Web Site:	https://www.ohspta.com/

Central Office Information

Superintendent and Central Office

Ctrl + Click on a name to send an e-mail directly to the person listed.

Michael Testani	Superintendent of Schools	203-255-8371
Nicole Danishevsky, Ed.D.	Executive Director of Mathematics and STEM PK12	203-255-8372
Janine Goss	Executive Director of Literacy PK12	203-255-8372
Kanicka Ingram	Executive Director of Human Resources Title IX Coordinator	203-255-8462
Courtney LeBorious	Chief Financial Officer	203-255-8383
Robert Mancusi	Executive Director of Special Education and Student Services	203-255-8379
Angelus Papageorge	Executive Director of Operations	203-255-8373
Zakia Parrish, Ph.D.	Deputy Superintendent	203-255-8372
James Zavodjancik, Ed.D.	Chief Academic Officer	203-255-8372

Directors

Ctrl + Click on a name to send an e-mail directly to the person listed.

Nancy Byrnes	Director of Technology	203-255-8367
Julie Heller	Program Director of Secondary English Language Arts	203-255-8286
Justine LaSala	Program Director of Science and STEAM	203-255-8282
Lisa Olivere	Program Director of Social Studies and Student Centered Learning	203-255-8281

Board of Education Information

Board of Education Members

Ctrl + Click on a name to send an e-mail directly to the person listed.

Jennifer Jacobsen	Board Chairwoman
Nick Aysseh	Board Vice-Chairman
Carol Guernsey	Board Secretary
Jessica Gerber	Board Member
Crissy Kelly	Board Member
Jennifer Maxon-Kennelly	Board Member
Jeff Peterson	Board Member
Bonnie Rotelli	Board Member
Christine Vitale	Board Member

Board of Education Meeting Dates 2023

Tuesday, August 29, 2023	Regular
Tuesday, September 12, 2023	Regular
Tuesday, September 26, 2023	Regular
Tuesday, October 10, 2023	Regular
Tuesday, October 24, 2023	Regular
Tuesday, November 14, 2023	Regular
Tuesday, November 28, 2023	Organizational/Regular
Thursday, December 7, 2023	Special, Town Hall
Tuesday, December 12, 2023	Regular

All meetings begin at 7:30 PM unless otherwise noted and take place at 501 Kings Highway East, Second Floor
 Dates for 2024 will be established in Winter 2023

Message from the Administration



Dear OHS Families,

Welcome to a new school year at Osborn Hill. We hope this resource serves to answer questions you may have about our school. As always, if there is a question you still have, please reach out to your child's teacher or the main office so we can help you.

Looking forward to the year ahead with all of you!

David Hudspeth
Principal

Patty Day
Assistant Principal

School Staff Information

School Staff Page

Kindergarten Courtney Jamison Marimina Milas Ellen Sigmund Ann Marie Soto	First Grade Jill Miller Amy Selter Brittany Goldrick Jessica Ottavio	Second Grade Wendy Accomando Kyana Cox Parvin Ghazian Rebecca Wicke
Third Grade Deanna Behpour Renzulli (dbehpour) Julie Burns John Grammatico	Fourth Grade Caryn Fleming Lisa Hohlweck Brenda Perry	Fifth Grade Celia Edwards Elizabeth Finck Marisa Huban
Special Education Alexandra McNamara Sara Rankin Ben Megna Jenna Quintiliano Melissa Geramita – CLC Chelsea Celentano-Reed - CLC	Speech/Language Dana Nixon Eleni Turner	Spanish Barbra Ondis
	OT/PT Madeleine Ranges - OT Angela Juda - PT	ELL Laura Baker
General Music Laura Haskitt Angela Hudak	STEAM/Gifted Jessica Stanley	Art Heather Nokta Hannah Grabinski
Strings Caroline Trombley	Physical Education Erik Marko Bob Bove	Band Patti DiMeglio
	Building Substitute Michael Benton Abigail Wells	Intern Maura Stringer

REACHING STAFF BY E-MAIL

Use firstinitiallastname, followed by: @fairfieldschools.org

Example: jbrown@fairfieldschools.org

IMPORTANT LINKS

Link to Infinite Campus Information:

<https://fairfieldct.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/fairfield.jsp>

Link to Transportation:

<https://www.fairfieldschools.org/departments/finance/transportation>

Link to Food Services:

<https://www.fairfieldschools.org/departments/finance/food-services>

Link to OHS Website

<http://fairfieldschools.org/schools/oh/>

Link to OHS PTA Website

<http://www.ohspta.com/>

Communication

Infinite Campus

Demographic and Emergency Contact Information changes may be made through the parent portal at <https://fairfieldct.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/fairfield.jsp> with the following exceptions:

- Student's legal name
- Student's address
- Student's birth date

If any of these areas need to be changed, changes **must** be made at Central Office with appropriate paperwork and a parent/guardian **must** schedule an appointment with the registrar at 203-255-8377.

If your household does not have Internet access or if you feel you might need help completing the forms, please contact our registrar at 203-255-8377. The registrar can make arrangements for you to use a computer at the Central Office to update your family's record and at the same time receive assistance, if needed. This system may also be used to register new students. Simply login to the website as described above, using your family login and click on the area for "new student."

Please add the address <https://fairfieldct.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/fairfield.jsp> to your internet browser to access the new online student information system (Safari, Internet Explorer, Chrome, and Firefox).

Issues with Infinite Campus

If you have any questions about this process or trouble accessing the portal, you can email reghelp@fairfieldschools.org and they will help you resolve your issue promptly.

Parent Square

All schools will begin using Parent Square in the 2023-2024 school year. Principals, teachers, and other faculty members will communicate school events, news, and other information through Parent Square.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Hours of Operation

Grades K-5	8:55 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.
Early Dismissal	8:55 A.M. to 1:40 P.M.
Delayed Opening	10:55 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Occasionally, inclement weather makes it prudent for the safety of students to have a delayed opening or early dismissal. Delayed openings are 2 hours after the normal start time and early dismissals are approximately 2 hours before the normal dismissal time.

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to listen to the local radio and television stations for specific information or call Fairfield Public Schools Talkline at (203) 255-TALK.

Emergency messages will also be issued to the contact phone numbers and email addresses provided by the parents via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

Arrival Procedures

- Building doors will open for student arrival at 8:45 A.M. We have two drop-off loops for students arriving by car. The Lower Loop is off of Pansy Road on the North side of the school and the Upper Wing Loop is off of Stillson Road on the South side of the school. **Please do not drop your child off before 8:45 A.M. as there is no adult supervision available until that time.**
- Students arriving on buses will enter through the main doors starting at 8:45 A.M.

Any student arriving to school after 8:55 AM: Students entering school after 8:55 AM should proceed to their classrooms and will be marked tardy by their homeroom teachers. Students arriving after 9:00 AM should be **signed in by an adult** at the main office. Students may not be dropped off at the curb, sent, or taken directly to the classroom. Upon the child's return to school following an absence of any kind, parents are required to send a note to the classroom teacher regarding the nature of the child's absence.

Dismissal Procedures

Students are dismissed at the end of the school day by grade level. Each grade level is called for dismissal at a specific time, as follows:

<u>Grade Kindergarten Walkers:</u>	Walkers dismissed from classroom door at 3:20 p.m.
<u>Grades 1 – 5 Walkers/Car Pickups:</u>	Walkers/Car Pickups begin at 3:25 p.m.
<u>Bus Riders in All Grades:</u>	Bus Riders begin dismissal at 3:27

Change of Dismissal Procedures

Each student begins the school year with a transportation calendar assignment on Infinite Campus:

Bus: The bus assignment means that the student lives far enough away from school to warrant a bus for transportation to and from school each day.

Walker: If the student is not assigned to a bus, the Infinite Campus transportation record will remain blank. This means that the student is a walker and lives close enough to walk to and from school each day.

The Infinite Campus transportation calendar assignment is the student's default dismissal plan for the school year. This means that the students will always be dismissed from school each day according to this plan.

There are occasions when parents may want to change a student's default dismissal plan for an appointment during the middle of the day or for an after school activity. Some dismissal changes may only be for a single day and others may require a permanent dismissal change.

If you would like to change your child's dismissal plan, either temporarily or permanently, or if you plan to sign-out your child during the school day for any reason, we must receive your request in writing. Each parent should use the **School Dismissal Manager** to change daily dismissal options and for pick-up procedures.

Requesting a change for dismissal at your school:

Parents must send in a change of dismissal request through **School Dismissal Manager** on the day the change is being requested.

- Students that are leaving school early must be signed out in the main office by his or her parent/guardian. The office staff will then call the classroom to release the student.

Requesting a change of dismissal during the school day:

If you must change your child's dismissal after the school day has started, we must receive your request in writing through **School Dismissal Manager**.

All dismissal changes must be received in the main office before 2:30 P.M.

Requesting a change of dismissal after an in-school event:

If you attend an in-school event and want to take your child/children home early, please proceed to the Main Office and the office staff will call the classroom to release your child/children.

Please do not go to your child's classroom for pick up as this interrupts the class's lesson and instruction and is in violation of our school safety plans.

Requesting an emergency change of dismissal:

We will only accept dismissal changes over the phone in the event of an emergency. We do realize that there are times when emergencies do occur and we will try to accommodate phone requests as they arise.

Additional Dismissal Guidelines

1. Teachers will not accept a verbal dismissal change from students.
2. If you do not request your change in dismissal through School Dismissal Manager your child will be released according to his or her default dismissal plan.
3. Teachers cannot accept dismissal notes for future dates.

Teachers work on a daily dismissal schedule and do not have the resources to track weekly dismissal changes for multiple students. *Please DO NOT send in a note that says "Ray will be picked up at 12:00 next Friday" or "Jane is being picked up early for a dr. appt. at 2:00 tomorrow and will also go to Kids Care after school on Thursday."*) If you do have changes for multiple days within the same week, you must put this request in **School Dismissal Manager** for each day that your child's dismissal plan will change.

4. Write "PERMANENT" on any note to the main office when your child's dismissal plan will be changed permanently.

Should you desire to permanently change your child's dismissal plan, send in a note defining the days of the week that the change will be effective. Be sure to write "**PERMANENT**" on the top of the note and include the reason for the dismissal change: e.g., "Suzy will attend Kids Care Monday through Friday" or "Johnny will be a pick-up on Monday and Wednesday and will take the bus on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday". The change will remain in place until you send in another change of dismissal note to replace it.

5. Do not email dismissal change requests, unless directed by the office staff.

Please refrain from emailing a change of dismissal request, unless directed by the office staff. As the school server occasionally experiences server outages, the office staff cannot count on this method of communication to be an effective way to manage the dismissal process.

In addition, teachers may only have time to check emails at lunch or at the end of the school day, which would prevent them from responding to your request in a timely fashion.

Finally, the office staff may not see a late afternoon email sent by a parent until after the school has been dismissed. The last hour of the school day is extremely busy for the office

staff as they are typically dismissing students that have planned early dismissals, in addition to calling dismissal for the entire school.

6. Students *will not* be called out of class to wait in the office for an early dismissal.

Please arrive to school a few minutes early—this will give the office staff time to locate your child and will allow the child adequate time to pack-up and come to the main office to meet you.

Family Emergency Plan for an Early Dismissal:

To be prepared for an early dismissal, parents will want to implement a family emergency plan, such as giving your child three to five homes to go to in the neighborhood, in a certain order.

- Remind them to go to the designated neighbor.
- Show them where an extra house key is kept.
- Have them call you or another adult when they arrive home to inform you of their whereabouts.

We suggest that you walk through a simulation with your child to give them the experience in a non-threatening situation. This planning not only prevents numerous phone calls, but also alleviates the child's anxiety.

Before and After School Care

Easton Community Center (ECC) is a private, licensed before- and after-school childcare program that takes place at Osborn Hill School each school day. ECC is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and from 3:30 to 6:00 pm. For registration information, contact ECC Program Director, George Taxiltaridis: (203) 459-9700, Info@eastoncc.com

Emergency Procedures

Lockdown

Lockdown drills are scheduled several times throughout the school year. School staff will notify you when a lockdown is scheduled.

Lockdown and relocation procedures will be practiced a minimum of three times throughout the school year. Parents will be notified whenever a lockdown drill occurs. In the event of an emergency lockdown, all students will be secured in locked classrooms within the building or at designated lockdown locations during recess. A staff member may not be available to answer phone calls or emails during a lockdown. All district communication and updates will be sent out through Infinite Campus. Please be sure to update all contact information at the beginning of each school year.

Fire Drills

Connecticut law requires that each school hold monthly fire drills. There are procedures at school to evacuate children quickly and safely in the event of a fire.

Emergency Alert System

Delayed Opening/ Early Dismissal/ Other Notifications

The Fairfield Public Schools use an emergency communication system to inform parents/guardians via home phone, cell phone, email, or text message of any school delayed opening, early dismissal, or closure in addition to other notifications.

All parents/guardians are required provide how they wish to be contacted in an emergency.

Parents are responsible to complete and keep current emergency contact information for their children through the Fairfield District Infinite Campus Parent Portal available at:

<https://fairfieldct.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/fairfield.jsp>

The district uses cell phone text and e-mail messages for alerts, weather delays, and cancellations. In extreme emergencies, the home phone will be used.

If parents/guardians wish to ***opt out*** of the phone call at home, which can be as early as 5:15 a.m. for a school closure, they must uncheck the home phone under emergency notifications. It is recommended the parent/guardian select an alternative choice such as cell phone text or email notification.

Emergency Procedures

Planning for the safety of the children is our highest priority and is done jointly with the professionals at the Fairfield Police and Fire Departments.

Predetermined plans have been developed as responses to a variety of possible situations. While it is not possible to know in advance what form an incident will take, the following are shared as elements of the district's emergency plan which are anticipated to be relevant under many circumstances:

- In the event of an incident, school district staff will implement appropriate, predetermined measures such as an evacuation or lockdown initiated by the building administrator. Communication will be initiated immediately with Fairfield police and fire personnel. The staff will follow the predetermined plan under the direction of the building administrator until the arrival of police and fire personnel, who will take command of the situation as appropriate to the nature of the incident.

Note: Teachers are required to take attendance records with them and re-assemble students in a predetermined safe area. At this time, the teacher will verify attendance.

- All schools have on-site evacuation plans. If warranted, a central evacuation site on the Fairfield University Campus can be utilized.
- In the event of an incident, children will be kept in school for the duration of the normal school day unless otherwise dictated by local conditions or the direction of the Fairfield police or fire personnel.
- If an incident occurs, a child will be released only to his/her parent or guardian if the parent or guardian personally appears at the school or other designated location to take possession of the child.
- Parents are urged to listen to public safety announcements made over radio and television at the time of the incident, which will provide information and guidance on the situation. In addition, email and text messages may be sent out via Infinite Campus (IC) system regarding the incident.
- If an incident occurs at a distance and there is a disruption of regional transportation (e.g., train service is halted, I-95 is closed), each site will make every effort to determine those children who will be going home at dismissal to an unanticipated, unsupervised situation caused by the incident or by the disruption of transportation. Emergency contact information will be utilized to identify alternate destinations for those children affected based on the emergency contacts provided by the parent or guardian. At a time designated by the district, children who remain at

school will be transported by the district to Fairfield Warde High School, which will serve as the district's temporary emergency shelter and family reunification site.

- The district staff is trained in a variety of responses to local public health or safety emergencies, including the implementation of lockdowns and evacuations. Details of these responses are not publicized for security reasons.

Celebrations

Student birthday lunches with parents

On the day of your child's birthday (or on a day near that birthday), adult visitors are welcome to join the student for lunch in our All Purpose Room. We have a special birthday table for the celebrating visitors. You may bring food from outside of school if you so choose for the birthday student (though you cannot share food with other students at school).

For summer birthdays or students who have birthdays during vacations, visitors may come on the school day of their choosing.

It is worth checking with your child's classroom teacher prior to the visit to ensure there are not field trips or special activities that may alter the lunch time on the day of your visit.

Schedules and Calendars

School Calendar

The Board of Education has established a calendar containing 182 days for instruction. School will begin with a full day for all students in grades K-12 on **Tuesday, August 29, 2023**. Specific information on orientation and other important dates will be sent in additional communications.

Elementary Open House Schedules

School	Date	Time
Burr	September 21	6:30-8:00
Dwight	September 19	6:00-7:30
Holland Hill	September 13	6:00-7:30
Jennings	September 6	6:30-8:00
McKinley	September 19	6:00-7:30
Mill Hill	September 13	6:30-8:00
North Stratfield	September 13	6:15-8:00
Osborn Hill	September 13	6:30-8:00
Riverfield	September 6	6:00-7:30
Sherman	September 5	6:00-8:00
Stratfield	September 13	6:30-8:00

2023-2024 Fairfield Public Schools Student Calendar

182 Instructional Days / 187 Teacher Days

Approved by BoE 7-20-2023

July 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

July 4—Independence Day

August 2023 (3)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 24-25, 28—PD Days

August 28—6th & 9th grade orientation

August 29—First Day of School

September 2023 (19)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

September 4—Labor Day

September 19—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

September 25—Yom Kippur

October 2023 (22)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

October 11—Early Dismissal PSAT (HS only)

October 25—Early Dismissal, PK-8 Day Conferences (Not HS)

October 26—Early Dismissal, PK-8 Evening Conferences (Not HS)

November 2023 (18)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

November 7—Election Day All Day PD HS only, 1/2 PD-1/2 Day Conferences PK-8

November 10—Veterans Day

November 22—Early Dismissal PK-12

November 23-24—Thanksgiving

December 2023 (16)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

December 5—Early Dismissal, PK-12 (PD)

December 22—Early Dismissal PK-12

December 25-29—Winter Break

January 2024 (21)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 1—New Year's Day (Observed)

January 9—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

January 15—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 2024 (19)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

February 13—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

February 16—February Break

February 19—Washington's Birthday

March 2024 (20)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

March 5—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

March 19, 21—Early Dismissal PK-5 Only (Conference Days, PM Conf on Mar 21)

March 29—Good Friday

April 2024 (15)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

April 2—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

April 10—Eid al-Fitr

April 15-19—Spring Break

April 30—All Day PD

May 2024 (22)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	






May 27—Memorial Day

June 2024 (7)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

June 10—Early Dismissal PK-12

June 11—Early Dismissal PK-12 and Last Day of School

The first 6 snow days will extend the length of the school year. Additional snow days will reduce the April Break beginning with the last day, April 19th. The date of high school graduation will be set by the Board of Education in April 2024.

- No School 
- No School and Professional Development for Staff 
- Early Dismissal 
- Early Dismissal and Professional Development or Conferences 
- The last 2 days are Early Dismissal days for students only 

2023-2024 Fairfield Public Schools Student Calendar

182 Instructional Days / 187 Teacher Days

Approved by BoE 7-20-2023

July 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

July 4—Independence Day

August 2023 (3)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	A	B	C		

August 24-25, 28—PD Days

August 28—6th & 9th grade orientation

August 29—First Day of School

September 2023 (19)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					D	2
3	4	E	F	A	B	9
10	C	D	E	F	A	16
17	B	C	D	E	F	23
24	25	A	B	C	D	30

September 4—Labor Day

September 19—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

September 25—Yom Kippur

October 2023 (22)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	E	F	A	B	C	7
8	D	E	F	A	B	14
15	C	D	E	F	A	21
22	B	C	D	E	F	28
29	A	B				

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November 2023 (18)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			C	D	E	4
5	F	7	A	B	10	11
12	C	D	E	F	A	18
19	B	C	D	23	24	25
26	E	F	A	B		

November 7—Election Day All Day PD HS only, 1/2 PD-1/2 Day Conferences PK-8

November 10—Veterans Day

November 22—Early Dismissal PK-12

November 23-24—Thanksgiving

December 2023 (16)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					C	2
3	D	E	F	A	B	9
10	C	D	E	F	A	16
17	B	C	D	E	F	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

December 5—Early Dismissal, PK-12 (PD)

December 22—Early Dismissal PK-12

December 25-29—Winter Break

January 2024 (21)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	A	B	C	D	6
7	E	F	A	B	C	13
14	15	D	E	F	A	20
21	B	C	D	E	F	27
28	A	B	C			

January 1—New Year's Day (Observed)

January 9—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

January 15—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 2024 (19)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				D	E	3
4	F	A	B	C	D	10
11	E	F	A	B	16	17
18	19	C	D	E	F	24
25	A	B	C	D		

February 13—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

February 16—February Break

February 19—Washington's Birthday

March 2024 (20)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					E	2
3	F	A	B	C	D	9
10	E	F	A	B	C	16
17	D	E	F	A	B	23
24	C	D	E	F	29	30
31						

March 5—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

March 19, 21—Early Dismissal PK-5 Only (Conference Days, PM Conf on Mar 21)

March 29—Good Friday

April 2024 (15)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	A	B	C	D	E	6
7	F	A	10	B	C	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	D	E	F	A	B	27
28	C	30				

April 2—Early Dismissal PK-12 (PD)

April 10—Eid al-Fitr

April 15-19—Spring Break

April 30—All Day PD

May 2024 (22)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			D	E	F	4
5	A	B	C	D	E	11
12	F	A	B	C	D	18
19	E	F	A	B	C	25
26	27	D	E	F	A	

May 27—Memorial Day

June 2024 (7)						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	B	C	D	E	F	8
9	A	B	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

June 10—Early Dismissal PK-12

June 11—Early Dismissal PK-12 and Last Day of School

The first 6 snow days will extend the length of the school year. Additional snow days will reduce the April Break beginning with the last day, April 19th. The date of high school graduation will be set by the Board of Education in April 2024.

No School

No School and Professional Development for Staff

Early Dismissal

Early Dismissal and Professional Development or Conferences

The last 2 days are Early Dismissal days for students only

Parent Teacher Conferences

It is important to establish open communication with your child's teacher in order for your child to be successful in school. One form of communication to support the parent-teacher relationship. Parent/Teacher conference days have been established in the fall and the spring to facilitate the process. On these days students have early dismissal. Please mark these dates on your calendars.

Fall		Spring	
Thursday, October 25, 2023	<i>Afternoon</i>	Wednesday, March 19, 2024	<i>Afternoon</i>
Tuesday, October 26, 2023	<i>Evening</i>	Thursday, March 21, 2024	<i>Evening</i>
Wednesday, November 7, 2023	<i>Afternoon</i>		

You will receive specific information regarding the scheduling of your conference from our staff prior to these dates.

When attending conferences please keep the following in mind and please consider what you would like to share or ask in these areas at your conference:

- establish early communication with the home'
- exchange information about the child;
- plan how home and school will work together for the child's benefit;
- develop understanding of concerns and expectations;
- report student progress and show samples of student work;
- answer questions about grades (where applicable); and
- talk about the transition from grade to grade.

Open House

Open House is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and get an overview of the classroom procedures and the expectations for the year. This event is parents only. Please use this time to learn more about your child's educational experience for the upcoming year. Open house takes place in identical two sessions so that you may visit more than one classroom if necessary.

The date for Open House for the 2023-2024 school year is Wednesday, September 13th:

- Session 1: 6:30-7:00 PM
- Session 2: 7:00-7:30 PM

Progress Reports and Testing

The elementary school Progress Reports are designed to provide parents and other caregivers with an understanding of their child's progress towards mastering grade level standards. See the link [here](#) to see the Progress Report rubrics.

If you should need further information on your child's progress please contact their teacher.

Progress Reports are issued three times a school year through the Infinite Campus portal. The Progress Report dates are as follows:

Friday, December 8
Monday, March 11
Tuesday, June 11 (tentative)

Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)

Students in the Fairfield Public Schools participate in several standardized testing programs. The Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) is a State mandated examination administered to students in grades 3-8. These assessments take place in the spring. Students will take two sections: English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. The ELA addresses reading, writing, and listening standards. Math addresses three areas: Concepts and Procedures, Problem Solving, Modeling, and Data Analysis, and Communicating and Reasoning. More information about the SBA's can be found at [this link](#).

The assessment window for 2023-2024 is March 25 through May 31. We will send out a more explicit testing schedule as the spring testing window is closer.

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Assessments aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) will be administered to all students in Connecticut at Grades 5, 8 and 11 starting in the spring. The tests at each grade assess students' understanding of the NGSS across the corresponding grade band (3-5, 6-8, and high school). Information about the science standards can be found at [this link](#).

The assessment window for NGSS 2023-2024 is March 25 through May 31. We will send out a more explicit testing schedule as the spring testing window is closer.

CogAT and Naglieri

Fairfield Public Schools administers the Naglieri Non-Verbal Test and the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogATs) to identify gifted students. Both these assessments are given in October to students in third grade.

NWEA (Northwest Education Association) MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Growth Assessment

All NWEA MAP assessments are computer-adaptive tests (CATs). Computer-adaptive tests continually adjust the difficulty of each child's test by choosing each test question based on the child's previous response. If the child answers a question correctly, the difficulty level of the next item is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level is decreased.

The NWEA assessment will be administered to students in grades K-9 in the following sequence:

- Reading – Grades 4-9
- Math – Grades K-9
- Language Usage – Grades 4-9

Parents will be given results at the termination of the each testing window.

NWEA Testing Dates 2023-2024 are tentatively scheduled for:

- September 18- September 29
- January 8 – January 19
- May 13- May 24

Acadience Reading

Students in grades kindergarten through grade three will be administered the Acadience Reading Assessment three times each year. Once students are in grade four, they will be administered the NWEA assessment. The Acadience Reading Assessment gathers information on explicit reading skills (e.g., fluency, phonics, etc.).

Acadience Reading testing dates for 2023-2024 are tentatively scheduled for:

- September 27 – October 13
- January 17 – February 2
- May 8 – May 24

There are a number of other assessments that students will be administered throughout the year. These may include the CORE reading assessment, math fluency probes, end of unit assessments, writing assessments, and spelling inventories for example. These assessments, when information is combined, allows teachers a great portrait of a student's current academic functioning and achievement.

You will receive a reminder of the dates of applicable testing for your child from school staff so he/she may be well rested and ready to do his/her best work. The school system generally uploads all testing reports to the *Infinite Campus Backpack*. We will inform you when new testing information is added to this portal.

Special Schedule

	Frequency:	Grade level/Duration
Art:	Once every 6 days for Grades K-5	Kindergarten/ 40 minutes Grade 1/ 50 minutes Grade 2/ 50 minutes Grade 3/ 50 minutes Grade 4/ 60 minutes Grade 5/ 60 minutes
Music:	Twice every 6 days for Grades K-5	Grade K-4 / 40 minutes Grade 5 /1 40 minute class, 1 55 minute class (Chorus)
Physical Education:	Twice every 6 days for Grades K-5	Grade K-5 / 40 minutes
Band Lessons:	Offered in Grade 5	Grade 5/ 45 minutes
String lessons:	Offered in Grades 4 and 5	Grade 4 and 5/ 45 minutes
Recorder:	Lessons begin in Grade 3	During Music class
Spanish:	Twice every 6 days for Grades 3-5	Grade 3-5 th /30 minutes
Library:	Flexible Setting	Fixed Grades K-5 / 40 minutes
STEAM:	Once every 6 days for Grades K-5	Grade K-5 / 40 minutes

School Policies and Procedures

Field Trips

Each grade will take field trips throughout the year as an extension of the curriculum.

- Permission slips are sent home in advance, along with requests for fees, if necessary.
- Travel is generally by school bus, although coach/luxury buses are used for longer trips
- Teachers will select parent volunteers to chaperone field trips.
- The elementary school PTA subsidizes field trips and scholarships are available.
- Siblings are not permitted to attend any field trips.

Dress Code

At all Fairfield Public Schools, we take pride in our students and know that their dress reflects pride in the school and in themselves. At no time should clothing be a distraction to the students nor should their attire be a danger to their personal safety in the classroom or on the playground. Appropriate footwear must be worn (no flip-flops, clogs, or open-toed sandals). Sneakers **must** be worn to participate in Physical Educations classes. Outerwear, including coats, jackets, or windbreakers must be worn on cooler days.

Visitation

School visitors must have an appointment with a staff member or have a legitimate reason for entering the school. This includes parents and community members as well as former students. Appointments will be confirmed with the staff member in question. School personnel must approve all other activities for which someone is entering the school.

Communications

Telephone

Plans for the afternoon should be made at home prior to coming to school. In an emergency, the office phone may be used with a teacher's permission. Only emergency phone messages for children and/or teachers will be delivered during the school day. Each classroom teacher will review the telephone policy with your child in school.

Fairfield Public Schools Website

There are a lot of wonderful resources for parents on the district's website. These include information about curriculum, registration information, and the district's family guide.

Infinite Campus is the tool by which the school and district communicates with families throughout the school year. As such, an Infinite Campus account is very important. . We would recommend that you include e-mail and text as contact preferences. Links (such as school letters or newsletters) are only accessible through e-mail.

Please be aware that you need an activation code in order to create a user name and password. reghelp@fairfieldschools.org, listed under problems logging in, can provide you with an activation code if you have not yet set up an Infinite Campus account.

Homework

The Board of Education considers homework and other out-of-class assignments to be basic parts of the educational program of the Fairfield Public Schools. Through homework and out-of-class assignments, students have an opportunity to reinforce and/or extend academic and learning skills taught in class. Homework also contributes to the students' development of such skills as working independently, organizing time, developing effective work habits, and developing self-discipline in accepting responsibilities. Parents or guardians are encouraged, through discussions with their children, to become aware of, and to support the need for the student to complete homework and other out-of-class assignments.

Board of Education Homework Policy:

Homework Policy

Vacations when school is in session: *homework requests*

The staff of the Fairfield Public Schools emphasizes the importance of regular school attendance. We urge you to plan vacations only during the time school is **NOT** in session.

If you **must** take a family vacation during school time, the following will be the responsibility of both the parents and child:

1. School work **will not** be provided for vacations.
2. During the vacation, parent or guardian should set aside reading time and ask students to journal about their adventures.
3. For all students, vacations will be considered unexcused absences. For more information, see the Board of Education Policy 5112.

Attendance Policy

Osborn Hill School's attendance guidelines are based on the Fairfield Board of Education's policy about attendance and truancy. Please click [here](#) for the entire policy.

Please be aware of the following guidelines:

1. Absences 1-9 are considered "excused" when appropriate documentation is provided by a student's parent/guardian approving the absence, due to any reason that the student's parent or guardian approves, within ten (10) school days of the student's return to school.
2. For the tenth absence and all absences thereafter, a student's absences from school are considered excused if there is medical documentation for an illness from a licensed medical professional (regardless of length), or we have appropriate documentation for any of the other reasons listed in the policy link above.
3. Anything not listed above is considered an unexcused absence. Vacations are considered unexcused absences.
4. Per Board Policy, a student is considered truant when that student has four (4) unexcused absences in a 30-day period or ten (10) unexcused absences in any school year.

Please be aware that if your child accumulates four unexcused absences in a 30-day period or ten over the course of a year, s/he is considered truant and you will receive communication from the school regarding next steps.

Locking of school doors

For the safety of our students, ALL school doors are locked throughout the day. However, between 8:45-9:00 a.m., the front doors will be open for students who are being dropped off. At 3:25 the doors to the cafeteria are opened for dismissal. After 9:00 a.m., please ring the bell located at the front of the building to gain access.

Recess and Lunch Procedures

Schedule

Grade level	Lunch	Recess
KM/KSI	11:25-11:45	See Classroom Schedule
KJ/KSO	12:15-12:35	See Classroom Schedule
1	11:20-11:40	11:00-11:20
2	11:50-12:10	11:30-11:50
3	12:20-12:40	12:00-12:20
4	12:50-1:10	12:30-12:50
5	1:15-1:35	12:55-1:15

[Food Policy \(CTRL + Click to access\)](#)

[Free and Reduced Lunch Applications \(CTRL + Click to access\)](#)

Nut Free Table

A peanut free table is available for all students with known allergies. Students may ask friends to join them at this table if they are purchasing a hot lunch. Hot lunch from the school are nut free and are safe for students with such allergies. The only child that may bring a cold lunch to the nut free table is the child with the nut allergy. Menus can be accessed [here](#). **[\(CTRL + Click to access\)](#)**

Birthday Celebrations

We celebrate and announce birthdays at Osborn Hill. We'll all help you to celebrate! The PTA will provide a new reading book to all students when they celebrate their birthday. Per district policy, food is not allowed at school celebrations such as birthdays and holiday parties.

See page 16 for information about having a birthday lunch with your child.

Per district policy, food is not allowed at school celebrations such as birthdays and holiday parties.

[Food Services \(CTRL + Click to access\)](#)

Elementary Schools Lunch Cost	\$3.10
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[Whitson's Food Services](#)

[Whitson's Allergy letter](#)

Program and Support Services

Language Arts Support

The Language Arts Specialists will assist students who have been identified by the school team as needing language arts support. These specialists work with students in all areas of reading and writing. The school's team, through a formal process, determines the frequency and duration of services.

Math and Science Support

The Math/Science Specialist will assist students who have been identified by the school's team as needing math or science support. The school's team, through a formal process, determines the frequency and duration of services.

Speech and Language Support

Speech and Language services provide a specialized program that enables children to optimize communication skills and improve speech/language issues which impact academic functioning. Students may qualify for services based on staff or parent referrals and diagnostic testing.

Psychologist

The School Psychologist provides psychological and counseling services to any child, parent, and staff member in the school community as needed. The psychologist works to ensure the students have a successful school year by utilizing a variety of services designed to help children learn and grow to their highest potential. Some of these services may include:

- Individual and group counseling;
- Groups to help children enrich their social and friendship skills;
- Individual sessions to help children adjust to school;
- Classroom lessons to help children learn how to get along with others;
- Conferences with parents to learn about their child's progress in school;
- Teaching social skills; and
- Diagnostic assessments

Lunch bunch and social skills groups are formed at the beginning of the school year. These groups meet for approximately twenty to thirty minutes per week at a time. They include a small number of students on any given occasion and focus on the acquisition of skills for establishing and maintaining positive peer interactions as well as problem solving. Activities are enjoyable and include conversations, and/or games and role-plays. Those students who wish to be a part of these groups will be considered "guests" as they will not be asked to participate on regular basis. In addition, students will not be asked to join these groups during essential academic time or specials.

Library Learning Commons

Our school's library media program is planned and taught by our Library Media Specialist, Ms. Sandy Kosh, who meets with every class during the school's 6 day learning cycle. The library curriculum incorporates lessons about digital citizenship, media literacy, research skills as well as technology skills. Students in grades 3-5 also have direct instruction related to the use of the (one-to-one) district computer devices. This curriculum ensures that each student learns the importance of becoming independent and responsible users of technology and information. The Library Media program is also committed to providing access to all of our resources, as well as creating balanced, conscientious users of technology and empowered members of digital communities. An important aspect of our program is that students responsibly consume, create, and share or present their products to their peers and the larger community.

Circulation is unlimited, with no restrictions on the number of books students may take out or fines for overdue books. The Library Learning Commons serves to motivate readers through story, spark new learning, and engage students as readers and lifelong learners.

Tech Time:	Once every 6 days for Grades K-5	Grade K-5th/40 minutes
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Special Education

The Special Education Department exists to facilitate the instructional and administrative aspects of the total program with students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). This department includes speech and language pathologists, resource teachers, a psychologist, a social worker, and many support teachers. Together the department addresses the learning, emotional, and social needs of all our school's students.

Throughout the year, the school's special education staff, coordinated by our school psychologist, meets with the principal, teachers, and parents to address academic issues of concern, design individual student programs at a Planning and Placement Team meeting (PPT), and provide appropriate assistance to enhance student learning.

Gifted Program

The gifted program in Fairfield Public Schools is designed to empower students through 21st Century inquiry-based practices while meeting the social and emotional needs of each identified gifted child. Gifted education is provided for those students who demonstrate high performance and capability in intellectual areas and need different services not ordinarily provided by the regular education program. Gifted education services are delivered in a multi-disciplinary approach. Students engage in a curriculum that is focused on conceptual thinking, higher level processes, in a real-world interdisciplinary problem-solving context. In the classroom, teachers provide differentiated experiences for gifted learners along a continuum of service options including, but not limited to, differentiated instruction, push-in/pull-out learning opportunities and targeted enrichment activities. Programming for gifted education from 3rd grade through 8th grade is purposely designed with the unique cognitive and social-emotional characteristics of gifted students in mind while fostering foundational skills in self-awareness, self-regulation, leadership, and social responsibility.

Additional information including the identification process is outlined in the gifted handbook found on the Fairfield Public Schools [website](#).

Curriculum

Please refer to the district website for information about the scope and sequences for grades Kindergarten through fifth. You will find a map of the curriculum in all curricular subjects. <https://www.fairfieldschools.org/academics/subjects>

Scientifically Research Based Instruction (SRBI)

Our school's faculty is committed to providing early intervention for struggling students not meeting goal in reading and math. We also offer intervention support for behavior issues and writing. Students who qualify for early intervention are assessed and provided appropriate intervention to ensure academic success.

Both a school and grade level intervention teams analyze student data, discuss students' classroom performance, and make decisions about how to best offer support. For further information, please contact your child's teacher.

Also, the link [here](#) from the CT State Department of Education offers more information about how all schools in CT deliver intervention services.

Health

A Note from our Nurse

The school nurse offers coverage from 9:00 am until 3:30pm daily. The duties are many and varied. A major portion of time is spent with your children administering first aid and illness evaluation. Various screenings are done throughout the year, including vision and hearing, and head lice.

The school nurse provides the health care and immediate first aid in case of an accident or sudden illness. The nurse will call the parent or guardian to come to the school for the child if the child becomes sick. It is important that the school nurse have **your emergency numbers and family physician information.**

Policies on Medication in Schools (CTRL + Click to access)

[Administration of Medication in the Schools](#)

[Administrative Regulations on Administration of Medication in Schools](#)

Physical Assessments/Immunizations

[Health Assessments and Immunizations](#)

[Administrative Regulations on Health Assessments and Immunizations](#)

Students with Special Health Needs

[Students with Special Health Care Needs – Life Threatening Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease Management](#)

[Administrative Regulations on Students with Special Health Care Needs – Life Threatening Allergies and Glycogen Storage Disease Management.](#)

Chromebook Initiative

Starting in 3rd grade, each student will receive a Chromebook, charger, and cover. Covered, charged Chromebooks should be brought to school each day. Chargers should remain at home to charge the Chromebook each night.

We recommend and request that Chromebooks only be used in public spaces at home for school work only.

Further information on Chromebooks, Chromebook care, privacy, and student expectations, can be found on the [Chromebook Policy page on the Fairfield Public Schools website](#).

As with all school issued resources, each family is responsible for returning the Chromebook in usable condition. We understand that accidents happen. To that end, we highly recommend families purchase the device insurance offered by FPS. Please see the [Device Insurance page on the FPS website](#). Families will also receive correspondence at the beginning of each school year on how to acquire the insurance. Please note, insurance purchases are available until end of business September 30. Insurance is not offered after that time until the following school year.

Behavior and Civic Expectations from the Elementary Schools

Common threads and vocabulary that are woven into the work of the schools focuses on the use of Responsive Classroom teaching practices and social skills work-**C-cooperation, A-assertion, R-responsible, E-Empathy and S-self-control**. There are also rules created that focus on these exemplars or other versions that the school leadership has created. The rules encompass expected behaviors towards self and others. They also highlight the expected behaviors of students in the common areas of the school: hallways, classrooms, bathrooms, cafeteria and recess spaces. Many of the schools have handbooks that are sent out to their families and/or behavior contracts for students and parents to sign. There are also many examples of school themes that incorporate the expected behaviors of their students. Some schools even have mantras or pledges that are shared by all each morning.

The behavior and civic expectations are supported through a variety of behavior management strategies. When dealing with infringements on the rules, staff use restorative practices and natural consequences to change behaviors.

Schools also use monthly celebrations that highlight the CARES actions of the school and its students/staff. Whole school focuses on kindness are common themes of these events. ***Overall, the themes of the schools and their support plans are all on being a truly good school citizen.***

Summary Social and Civic Expectations –PK-8

- Mutual Respect
- Developing Independence, Kindness, and Compassion
- Celebrating Diversity
- Nurturing Academic Growth to the Student's Full Potential
- Safe and Secure Learning Environment

Volunteers and Visitation

Volunteers Guidelines

We appreciate you taking the time to volunteer at Osborn Hill School.

All volunteers must have a Volunteer Registration form on file in the school office. Please see the link below and fill out the form needed. This form *is not* required for assemblies, special events, parent/teacher conferences, class presentations or any other parent/staff meeting.

[Volunteer Form](#) (CTRL + Click - to access)

Guidelines and Expectations for Volunteers in Schools:

Thank you for offering to lend a hand as a parent volunteer at our school. Our teachers are outstanding, yet it is a challenge to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of each child within the classroom setting. As a staff, we firmly believe that there is a direct correlation between the quality of education that can be achieved in a school and the visible presence of caring parent volunteers. In order to keep all minds and bodies appropriately focused and “on task” during instructional sessions, additional adult eyes and hands can dramatically improve the efficiency and productivity of the children’s participation in a lesson or activity.

Below is a list of **ethical standards** for parents who serve as volunteers at our school. The school reserves the right to “dis-invite” a parent volunteer who is not able to adhere to these standards. Please be aware that secretaries will ask any visitor to our school a few basic questions to ascertain why they are visiting our school. Please be patient with them. This is a safety procedure implemented at all of Fairfield’s schools and is not meant to prevent parents from accessing our school.

1. Volunteers must aspire to “**professional standards**” of **ethical conduct** while serving in the school and while communicating about school activities outside of the school. Please respect confidential matters and the **special “trust”** that is formed between the school and the parent volunteer. There should be no judgmental or comparative anecdotal conversations in school or within the school community regarding the following:

- Perceived strengths, weaknesses, or “styles” of individual children or teachers
- Children who display developmental delays or a need for special education or social services (School Psychologist, Social Worker, Speech and Language Pathologist, etc.)
- Children’s social, economic, academic, or emotional challenges or advantages

2. Volunteers must try to adhere to the schedules they have worked out with their cooperating teachers. **If you are not able to keep to your scheduled arrangement, please notify the classroom teacher as soon as possible in advance.**

Volunteers with questions about the methods or practices of a teacher should make arrangements to seek clarification **from the teacher**.

3. Volunteers may be asked to work with children directly or handle management tasks (laminating, copying, etc.) as determined by the teacher.

Also, if you are going to volunteer at our, please keep in mind the following requirements from the district's policy.

- If a volunteer (parents, etc.) is coming for a one-time or occasional visit (ex: read to a class, work at the book fair, etc.), please confirm your visit with the classroom teacher or staff member where you will be doing the volunteering.
- If a volunteer is coming regularly, over a period of time, and/or will have direct contact with students when no staff member is present, they will need to fill out the form AND need to contact Kristen Hardiman in Human Resources. They will need to have fingerprints done, have a check done through DCF, and have the PPD Mantoux tuberculin test.

Your role as a parent volunteer is important to our overall success and to the quality of learning we are able to provide our school children. **We want and need your involvement as a volunteer.**

Visitation

Parents and other visitors are both welcome and encouraged to visit the school, attend selected assemblies, participate in special events, and volunteer. All visitors must report to the office immediately upon entering the building. Classroom instruction should not be interrupted. Below are some important reminders to help maximize the learning environment for your children and decrease classroom disruptions:

- When visiting the school, please make sure you sign your name in the book in the Main Office.
- Please make an appointment with your child's teacher to address any concerns.
- If it is necessary to drop off your child's lunch or a forgotten item from home, please leave it on the Stop, Name of your OOP's cart cart located outside the main entrance. Office secretaries will check the cart multiple times throughout the day.
- Please refrain from unannounced visits to your child's classroom.

Thank you in advance for your partnership and cooperation with these guidelines. They will greatly help us to maintain consistency in your child's daily school routine. This also will allow your child to have a positive school experience that will foster his/her independence.

Parent Observation Request form for Classroom or Playground Observations

Please complete the Classroom or Playground Parent Observation Request Form in support of your request to observe your child in the school environment in the classroom or on the playground at Osborn Hill. We appreciate one week's notice to accommodate a request for an

observation; however, we will do our best to schedule your observation as soon as possible. An administrator or other designee must accompany parents during observations. While we welcome your input as a parent and encourage active involvement in your child's education, please respect our need to limit observations to a **30-minute time period once every two months** in order to minimize interruptions to the student learning environment. Please understand that the teacher cannot meet with you at this time, nor may you engage any student in a private conversation. Thank you for your cooperation. (A copy of the form is included on the next page)

**Elementary School
Classroom or Playground
Parent Observation Request Form**

Please complete the following in support of your request to observe your child in the school environment in the classroom or on the playground at Osborn Hill School. We appreciate one week's notice to accommodate a request for an observation; however, we will do our best to schedule your observation as soon as possible. An administrator or other designee must accompany parents during observations. While we welcome your input as a parent and encourage active involvement in your child's education, please respect our need to limit observations to a **30-minute time period once every two months** in order to minimize interruptions to the student learning environment. Please understand that the teacher cannot meet with you at this time nor may you engage any student in a private conversation. Thank you for your cooperation.

Name of Student: _____ Date Submitted: _____

Classroom Teacher: _____

(If Applicable: Case Manager: _____)

Individual Observing: _____

Class you wish to observe: _____

Options for dates & times requested: _____

Reason for observation:

Staff complete:

Date & Time Approved: _____

Approved by: _____

Designee Attending Observation _____

Safety and Behavior

School Rules and Behavior Expectations

1. Everyone deserves to be treated well. Students, teachers, bus drivers, staff members, and parents are to be treated with respect.
2. Walking and quiet talking is for inside, and running and shouting is for outside.
3. Hitting and/or inappropriate language is not permitted. Rough play or hitting other students (as in “play fighting”) is dangerous and those who hit will lose privileges and their parents will be contacted. The use of bad language is also hurtful to others and will result in loss of privileges and their parents will be contacted.
4. Buses are for sitting and talking quietly while traveling to and from school.
5. Outside lunch recess means outside only! Students may not wander through the halls or remain in their classrooms during lunchtime without supervision.
6. Outdoor play is restricted to designated play areas.
7. Students need to demonstrate proper manners while eating lunch. Clean up your own mess.
8. No picking up or throwing of stones, dirt, or snowballs...EVER!
9. Skateboarding on school grounds is not allowed at any time.

In addition to these guidelines, we expect students to:

- be on time for school - before 8:55 a.m. bell.
- refrain from chewing gum-unless allowed by your teacher or eating candy in school
- refrain from wearing hats indoors except when on the way to lunch or playground
- keep their lockers and classrooms clean
- keep shoes tied.
- refrain from bringing toys, electronic games, card collections, or sports equipment to school unless with teacher permission
- arrive at school no earlier than 8:45 a.m., when classrooms open.

Bus Expectations

The town provides transportation for children in grades K-3 who live more than 3/4 mile from school and for children in grades 4 and 5 who live more than one mile from school. Parents of children who live within these distances but believe it unsafe for their children to walk to school may submit a letter requesting transportation on a space available basis. Bus assignments will be mailed prior to the opening of school. Children are to ride **only** their assigned bus to and from school. **No exceptions!** A child may get off at a different bus stop **only with written permission** from the parent or guardian. The child must show this note to the teacher and then give this note to the bus driver as they get on the bus for the ride home. If the child is **not taking the bus** on a certain day, please send a note to the child’s teacher indicating that the child should be dismissed as a walker for that day.

The following are some simple rules recommended for your child’s safety. Please take a few minutes to talk to your child about these safety rules:

- Bus riding is a privilege. Offensive riders will be removed from the bus for a period of time. Your school day officially begins when you first take a step on to the bus, and it ends when you step off in your neighborhood.
- Arrive on time for the bus.
- Do not cross the road in front of the bus so that the driver can see you safely cross. Make eye contact with the driver.
- Wait only at the designated bus stop on the correct side of the street.
- Stay out of the street and wait until the bus comes to a complete stop.
- Do not push or shove to get in line as the bus arrives. Do not run to the bus when it is still moving.
- Respect private property at the bus stop.
- Do not push and keep your hands and belongings to yourself.
- Be careful not to have loose ends hanging from clothing and backpacks that might get caught on railings and doors.
- Speak in a normal voice – **No shouting!**
- Treat bus equipment with respect.
- Realize that the bus driver is in charge.
- Do not stay on the bus in an emergency, unless the driver gives other instructions.
- Do not report offensive language or behavior to the driver and to Mr. Hudspeth or Mrs. Day. Drivers are also instructed to report offensive behaviors to Mr. Hudspeth or Mrs. Day.

[Transportation Office Link](#)

Recess and Lunch Expectations

All children play outdoors every day, weather permitting. During this recess time the children will follow certain safety rules and be monitored by playground supervisors on duty. Footwear is very important to the safety of the children. Sneakers and rubber-soled shoes are best. Sandals are not encouraged in summer weather –especially on recess equipment. When it is cold, children need to wear warm clothing and footwear, including hats and gloves/mittens. When there is snow on the playground and fields, children will be allowed to play on the blacktop. For rainy days and other inclement weather conditions (such as ice!) recess will be conducted and supervised in the child’s classroom.

Items not permitted in school

The safety of all students is our highest concern. Therefore, students who bring to school, use, sell or attempt to sell a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instrument or facsimiles of weapons will be suspended from school and reported to the Fairfield Police Department. State law specifically prohibits such behavior. **Such behavior may result in *EXPULSION* from school for a period of up to, but not exceeding, 182 consecutive school days (10-233a[e]).**

In order to ensure the student safety and the protection of personal property, parents are encouraged to closely monitor those items that are brought or worn to school by students. **The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken prohibited items.**

The following items are specifically prohibited on school grounds and will be confiscated by school staff:

- Weapons (real or toy) such as guns, pocketknives, razor blades, or sharp objects. **Please note that there are disciplinary consequences for bringing any type of weapon or dangerous item to school.**
- Matches, caps, and fireworks
- Skateboards, roller blades, roller skates, Heelys
- **Cell phones and smart watches** (must be away if brought to school)***
- Sports equipment such as bats or lacrosse sticks. (Equipment for recess will be provided by the school.)

*Please note: e-readers are permitted in school at the discretion of the teacher. However, students are NOT permitted to download content while at school. For multi-purpose e-readers like iPads and Kindle Fires, students are not permitted to access games, movies, music, or Web content while at school.

Please note: All multi-purpose electronics, including cellphones **should not be in use on the bus. Students can use e-readers to read on the bus only.

*** Students are allowed to bring cell phones and smart watches to school provided that the device is turned off and stored away from the student until dismissal. Cell phones and smart watches are not to be used in the building at any time unless given consent by the teacher or after dismissal time. Any student who is witnessed using a cell phone or smart watch for any purpose during the school day will be referred to the assistant principal. A second offense will require pickup by an adult.

Bullying Policy

The Fairfield BOE promotes a secure and happy school climate, conducive to teaching and learning which is free from threat, harassment, and any type of bullying behavior. There is an anonymous bullying report attached to our website called TIPS. If you know of or witness any bullying behavior, you have the option of reporting it anonymously through this online program. You can also call the Principal, Assistant Principal, or your child's classroom teacher directly if you have any bullying concerns.

For further information regarding BOE policy, please [click here](#).

Technology

Safety and Student Use

The school system routinely makes use of videotaping, digital, and traditional photography for educational purposes. Examples include but are not limited to the videotaping of concerts, assemblies, and sporting events. Students' images without names may be displayed in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, bulletin boards, publications, and the school or district web site. **A parent or guardian who does not want their child videotaped or photographed and those images displayed as described above are asked to contact the school principal.**

In certain circumstances, it may be desirable to display a student's image in a publication or on the school or district web site with his/her name, such as when an award is given. Publishing a student's image with his/her name requires **express written permission** from the parent or guardian.

Please Note: This provision of seeking prior permission does not apply to school yearbooks, school newspapers, or images published by the working press. However, if a parent or guardian has a concern about the publication of a student's image in those settings, that concern should be brought to the school principal.

PTA

We have an active and productive Parent Teacher Association at Osborn Hill. Families are welcomed and encouraged to participate and volunteer for events and planning throughout the year.

All parent communication is online and sent via e-mail. There is a weekly Flash sent to all families on Monday mornings. Other notifications are sent out as necessary.

Announcements, flyers and forms are also available via the PTA website - www.ohspta.com.

Notices to be sent via the Flash must still be approved by central office or the school administration.

OHS PTA President and President-Elect

Rachel Parrish, PTA President

Melissa Miller, PTA President Elect