

Mystic River Magnet School



2024 - 2025 School Handbook

Principal

Mr. Steve Wheeler

Assistant Principal

Mr. Paul DiPadua

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Principal Message:

Dear Mystic River Magnet School Families,

I am excited about the upcoming school year and cannot wait to get started as we welcome our Grade 1-5 students back beginning on Thursday, August 29, 2024.

Ms. Rotner, our Magnet Coordinator, will continue to work with MRMS on a weekly basis to help support our Enrichment Fridays and magnet theme play-block. We will continue to partner with Life is Good and are looking to implement Purposeful Play in our kindergarten classrooms this year. In addition, we are moving forward with the development of an outdoor classroom/learning space in our courtyard. Please visit our website regularly for additional information about our theme as well as updates from the school.

Academically, in addition to the curriculum and lessons that your child's teacher will be creating, our Literacy and Math team will be supporting students during those core blocks. The district will be implementing a new ELA curriculum, Wit & Wisdom, this year. To help develop and meet our student's social, emotional, and behavioral needs, MRMS has a School Psychologist, School Social Worker, Two Behavior Tutors, MFLC support and a School Based Health Center Counselor. We will continue to implement the Second Step program building-wide this year to offer additional support across our school.

Newsletters will be sent out which will highlight any updates and provide information to our families. I will send those through Parent Square. MRMS will strive to build a strong home school connection where we work together as a team. Please do not hesitate to contact me, Mr. DiPadua, or Mrs. Sabo with any questions you may have.

Thank you in advance for your commitment, support, and dedication in making this upcoming year of Mystic River Magnet School a great one.

In Partnership,

Steve Wheeler, Principal, MRMS

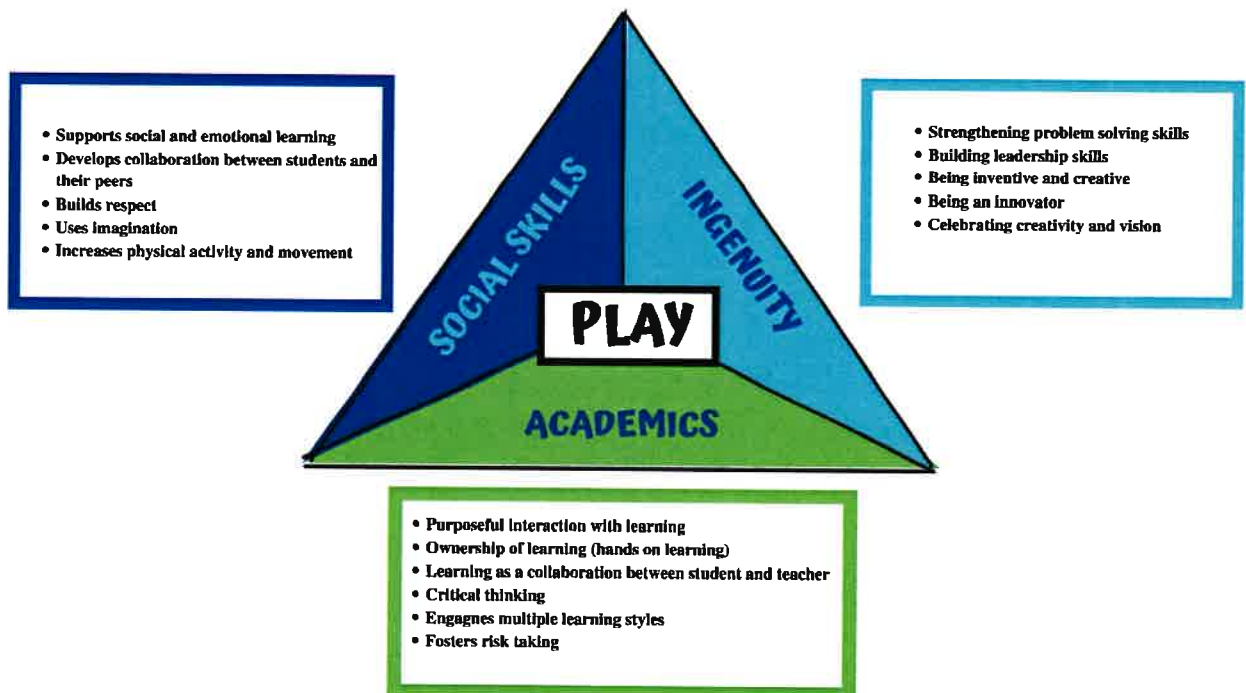
Our Theme: Active Exploration - Play and Ingenuity

Our Mission Statement:

Mystic River Magnet School, where you are inspired to take charge of your journey. Every day, you can find the joy in learning by exploring your imagination, through play and ingenuity!

Our Active Exploration Theme

Play Supports Learning



“The power of play motivates students to connect with, actively explore, and joyfully engage with their surrounding world.”

- Steve Wheeler, Principal of Mystic River Magnet School

School Day Schedule

Children receive a minimum of 5 hours and 30 minutes of instruction each day with the exception of early dismissal days. Two-hour early dismissal days are scheduled intermittently throughout the year to allow for parent-teacher conference and teacher in-service meetings.

Elementary School Hours

Grades 1-5: 9:00 am – 3:35 pm
Full-Day Kindergarten: 9:00 am – 3:35 pm
am
AM Pre-Kindergarten: 9:00 am – 11:48 am
pm
PM Pre-Kindergarten: 12:48 pm – 3:35 pm

Early Dismissals – Weather Related

Grade K-5: 9:00 am – 1:20 pm
AM Pre-Kindergarten: 9:00 am – 11:08
PM Pre-Kindergarten: 11:09 am – 1:20

Planned Early Dismissals (P/T Conf./TLI Day)

Grade K-5: 9:00 am – 1:20
AM/PM Pre-Kindergarten: See teacher for schedule

Parent Involvement

A child's educational success is a partnership shared by school and family, including all those who play an important role in your child's well-being. Student achievement increases when families are active in the learning process. Educators recognize and acknowledge the family's role as the primary facilitator of their children's education.

Parent involvement programs in our schools support and respect family responsibilities and diversity, as well as link parents to programs and resources within the community. All families will be provided opportunities for involvement.

Family and school communications are two-way, regular, meaningful, and respectful. Effective communication requires that both the family and the school initiate contact and provide vital information about a child's strengths, challenges, and accomplishments.

PTO

Mystic River believes that parent-school collaboration is essential to providing the best learning environment for our children. Participation in parent/teacher organizations is one of the best ways to support your child's education. Please visit our website for more information about our PTO. We welcome all!

School Visitations/Entering Mystic River Magnet School

Students are not allowed to have visitors in school during normal school hours except when granted special permission from a school administrator who has been given one full day's notice.

All visitors/parents must enter the school using the doors at the main lobby. All school doors are locked; guests requesting entrance must ring the buzzer on the school's PA/Camera and speak with a secretary. *They will ask for a form of identification and the purpose of your visit.* Once the request for access has been validated, guests will be let into the office area. A Guest badge will be given that must be displayed on the upper torso while on school property. Upon departure, all badges must be returned to the main office.

Toys/Personal Devices

Devices such as cellular phones, apple-android watches, MP3 players or IPODS, radios, games, laser pointers, etc. are not to be used during the school day. If visible, they will be taken from the student and held until the end of the school day for the first offense. Subsequent violations will result in disciplinary action including devices being taken from the student and held until parents pick them up. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen articles. Therefore, it is recommended that these items not be brought to school.

Student Conduct - (Policy #5131)

Parents - Parents shall be expected to cooperate with school authorities regarding the behavior of their children. Parents shall be held responsible for the willful and chronic misbehavior of their children.

Students – Students shall be properly instructed in rules and regulations of acceptable conduct; they shall then be responsible for understanding and complying with the standards of behavior described herein. Any student who fails to comply with these rules and regulations concerning student behavior is liable to suspension, in-school suspension, or expulsion.

Student Code of Conduct- We ask students to follow our “Code of Conduct”

Respect

Respect the learning process.

Treat others as you would have them treat you.

Understand, respect and celebrate diversity.

Respect personal and school property.

Responsibility

Learn from mistakes.

Be on time.

Be prepared.

Do your best every day.

Dress appropriately.

Be a committed learner.

Participate in class every day.

Be a productive citizen of the school community.

Be kind toward one another.

Life is Good

We have partnered with the Life is Good Company. Our staff have received training and are implementing activities that align with our Social and Emotional goals. These activities help support our students and staff by infusing fun, movement, and art into their day.

We will end each Friday with a “Play block” that will be implemented building wide. This is 45-minute block will relate to our magnet theme and will include enrichment, play-based, hands-on, and creative activities for students to engage with their learning.

In addition, we will focus on the Life is Good “Superpowers” throughout the year. Each month we will focus on one Superpower. Students and staff will be recognized by others for demonstrating this Super Power and will be recognized during the morning announcements.

MRMS Superpowers:

- Openness
- Fun
- Compassion
- Gratitude
- Creativity
- Love
- Courage
- Authenticity
- Humor

Bus Code of Conduct

Bus transportation to school is a privilege available to all students. However, this privilege can be suspended. The bus is an extension of the school, and it is expected that proper behavior will prevail. The driver is in FULL charge on the bus, and his/her instructions are to be obeyed. For the student's comfort and safety, he/she must abide by the following:

- Be on time. Buses must meet a schedule.
- Respect personal property while waiting at a stop.
- As the bus approaches, form a single line. Do not move toward the bus until it stops.
- Enter the bus in an orderly manner and take a seat.
- Remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- Quiet conversation is encouraged. Do not distract the driver by loud talk or shouting.
- Appropriate language must be used at all times.
- Do not offend pedestrians or passengers in other vehicles by shouting out of windows or making obscene gestures.
- Nothing is to be thrown or tossed within the bus or out of the bus.
- The carrying of weapons or any object that may be used as a weapon on the bus is prohibited by State Law.
- Do not bring cigarettes, matches or lighters to school. Smoking is not allowed.
- Get on and off at a regular stop. Do not request special consideration.
- Pupils who deface the bus will be held liable for its repair. Should you note any damage, report it immediately to the driver.
- **Any student who loses the privilege of riding the bus due to misconduct is still required to attend school.**
- Students and parents are invited to discuss any bus problem with the principal or assistant principal.

DRESS CODE

School dress may be regulated and students are encouraged to dress in clothing appropriate to the school setting. Restrictions on freedom of expression may be applied whenever the mode of dress is unsafe, disruptive, or contrary to law.

Any school dress which impairs the safety or increases the risk to self or others, causes discomfort to others (e.g., uncleanliness, inappropriate language), causes distraction or disruption of the learning environment, advertises, or advocates the use of alcohol or drugs, pornography, or inherently contains unreasonable potential to hurt or upset others, is prohibited.

The following guidelines will be used in judging appropriateness of clothing worn in school:

1. Students must always wear foot apparel in school which is appropriate and safe for school. Shoes with laces must be tied.

2. Shoes, or any type of foot apparel, with wheels are not allowed.
3. Clothing and accessories must be free of offensive signs, slogans or language.
4. Underwear worn as outerwear and any clothing that exposes underwear are prohibited.
5. Clothing must be appropriately sized. Pants must be worn at the waist.
6. No hats, bandanas, "do-rags," hoods or any other headwear may be worn in the building.
7. Pajamas and lounge wear are prohibited.
8. Clothing that is deemed by the administration to be too short is prohibited.
9. Final decisions regarding appropriate clothing rest with the administration.

Internet Use

Chromebooks are provided in every classroom to equip students with the anticipated technical skills to compete in today's world of information and technology. Prior to receiving authorization to use the Internet, students and their parents/guardians must sign a "Permission and Contract" document provided by the school district. Use of the Internet is a privilege, and all students must abide by the Groton Board of Education "Internet Use Policy and Procedures" to assure it is used appropriately and responsibly. Administration will address any inappropriate use of technology by students and discuss any disciplinary actions with parents and families.

Homework

Research evidence indicates a positive correlation between homework, student performance, and achievement. Regular homework will be assigned to students. Homework assignments should:

- be related to classroom instruction;
- be age and developmentally appropriate;
- provide reinforcement and enrichment of classroom instruction which can be independently completed by the student;
- emphasize critical thinking, problem solving, and written expression;
- emphasize quality over quantity;
- be reviewed/assessed once submitted;
- contribute to the evaluation of the student's performance.

Homework should be relevant and instructionally sound and should not be used for disciplinary purposes. It should be noted that, on occasion, individual students may have to complete unfinished classroom work in addition to the regularly scheduled homework assignments.

The following homework procedures have been developed for grades PreK-5:

- Gr. PreK, K - Daily reading with parent or guardian.
- Gr. 1 - 15 minutes of daily reading, plus 10 minutes of other homework activities, not more than 3 times per week.
- Gr. 2 - 15 minutes of daily reading, plus 15 minutes of other homework activities, not more than 3 times per week.
- Gr. 3 - 20 minutes of daily reading, plus not more than 20 minutes of other homework activities, 2 to 4 times per week.
- Gr. 4 - 20 minutes of daily reading, plus not more than 30 minutes of other homework activities, 3 to 5 times per week.
- Gr. 5 - 20 minutes of daily reading, plus not more than 45 minutes of other homework activities, 3 to 5 times per week.

Report Cards

Each discipline is represented by instructional objectives which are described in the grade level curriculum manual. Separate report cards will be used for each grade level.

Your child's progress is reported three times during the year and report cards will be made available for viewing on the parent portal – December, March, and June. Parent-Teacher Conferences are held twice a year.

Safety Drills

Fire drills and lockdown drills are conducted during the school year. During a fire drill, students must pass quickly and silently in a single file to the nearest exit as directed by the teacher and remain with their class. Directions for this procedure will be found in each classroom near the exit door. After the drill, students will return to their classes at the direction of the teacher.

SCHOOL REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE

Kindergarten Registration

Children who are five years of age on or before January 1st will be admitted to Kindergarten. A registration day for children enrolling for the first time in Kindergarten is held in the spring in the office of the school registrar. (When applicable, pre-kindergarten registration admits children four years of age on or before January 1st who qualify.)

Parents of eligible children will receive information regarding registration procedures in the local newspapers or through school-initiated notices.

The following information is required when a child is registered for Kindergarten:

1. Birth Certificate
2. Address – proof of residency, lease, utility bill
3. Social Security Number

4. Verification of immunization
5. Physical (required by the 1st day of school)
6. Health History form

Note: At the Kindergarten registration, your child may go through a readiness screening process.

New Residents

Families who are moving into Groton with school-aged children are required to make an appointment with the **School Registrar located at the Central Office.** To transfer children to the Groton School District, the following information should be presented to the Central Office Registrar:

1. Birth Certificate
2. Address – proof of residency, lease, utility bill
3. Social Security Number
4. Verification of immunization
5. Physical

Upon receipt of the above information, arrangements will be made by the Groton School District to obtain additional needed student records from the last school attended. Visits to your children’s school should be arranged by contacting the school.

Absences-Student Attendance

Good daily attendance at school is important to the academic and social growth of children. Occasions do arise, however, when absence from school is warranted and excused. These occasions can be categorized as: illness of the student, death in the immediate family, quarantine, and “exceptional urgent reasons” that may affect the child. The principal will determine what is covered by “exceptional urgent reasons.” In addition, absences will be excused when, as a result of severe weather conditions, a parent or guardian indicates in writing that school attendance would have presented a danger to the health or welfare of the child. All other absences are considered unexcused. **If your child is going to be absent, you are asked to call the school that morning.**

A child who is absent from school must present, upon return to school or within 10 school days, a note signed by the parent explaining the absence. A note of explanation from a parent is required also when a child arrives late for the beginning of school. Early dismissal also requires a note of explanation no later than the morning of the dismissal.

Students who are tardy should be signed in at the office by the parent/guardian. It is suggested that parents be aware of the school calendar when planning family vacation trips. **Missed work is not provided for students to take with them when they leave for unexcused**

absence, such as week-long vacations. Students are encouraged to read and keep a journal while they are out.

Attendance - (Policy #5113)

The Groton Board of Education recognizes that regular attendance in school is fundamental to a child's achievement. Instructional experiences that occur in school are meaningful and essential components of the learning process. Time lost from class is irretrievable. It shall be the policy of the Groton Public Schools to encourage regular, daily attendance by all students.

Connecticut State Board of Education policy states that, *"A student is considered to be "in attendance" if present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school (e.g., a field trip), for at least half of the regular school day. A student who is serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion should always be considered absent."* According to this policy, a student who is not "in attendance" is considered absent.

In order to identify those students who are chronically absent and at risk of becoming truant and to provide clear guidance to school districts for complying with truancy laws and reporting student truancy statistics, the State Board of Education has adopted the following definitions and guidance regarding student absences:

Disciplinary Absences – Absences that are the result of school or District-level disciplinary action (e.g., out-of-school suspension and expulsion) are excluded from State-level accounting and will not be counted against the student for the purpose of this policy.

Excused Absences – A student's absence from school shall be considered excused if written documentation of the reason for the absence has been submitted within ten (10) school days of the student's return to school, or the absence is in accordance with section 10-210 of the Connecticut General Statutes (exclusion for medical reasons), and student's absence meets the following criteria:

- A. For absences one through nine (1-9), a student's absences from school are considered excused when the student's parent/guardian approves such absence, regardless of the reason, and submits appropriate documentation; and
- B. For the tenth and subsequent absences, a student's absences are considered excused for the following reasons:
 - 1. Student illness (Note: all student illness absences must be verified by an appropriately licensed medical professional for the absence to be excused, regardless of the length of the absence);
 - 2. Student's observance of a religious holiday;
 - 3. Death in the student's family or other emergency beyond the control of the student's family;

4. Mandated court appearances (additional documentation required);
5. The lack of transportation that is normally provided by a school district other than Groton (no parental documentation is required for this reason)
6. Extraordinary educational opportunities pre-approved by the Principal, or his/her designee, per the guidance in this policy.

Unexcused Absences – A student’s absence from school shall be considered unexcused unless it meets the definition of an excused absence (including the documentation requirements) or the absence was a disciplinary absence.

Note that the State Board of Education’s policy only considers a student absent when he/she misses half or more of the normal school day. A student missing less than half the school day will be considered tardy; student tardiness shall be dealt with at the school building level.

Documentation of Student Absences

The State Board of Education requires careful and thorough documentation of all student absences. Parent or guardian notes and other documentation are central to determining whether a student’s absence is excused or unexcused. While a written note from a parent or guardian will likely be the most common form of documentation, other methods of reporting a student’s absence are acceptable, such as a parent/guardian making a report in person to the designated school staff member, through an online system with controlled access, or via video chat. E-mail and texting do not meet the State’s security requirements; however, e-mail may be used to deliver a scanned image of a note.

The school staff must be certain that the student’s parent/guardian was the one providing the information regarding the student’s absence in order for it to be excused should the absence meet all the applicable criteria specified herein.

School staff must receive or generate documentation for each instance of absence, which is one or more consecutive school days absent. Schools should only accept notes covering a series of absences for non-consecutive school days if the absences share a common cause.

Once a student has accrued a total of none (9) absences, including both excused and unexcused, additional documentation (besides the note from the student’s parent/guardian) is required in order for absences resulting from illness or mandated court appearances to be excused:

- A. Students missing school for mandated court appearances must provide additional documentation such as a policy summons, a subpoena, a notice to appear, or a signed note from a court official.
- B. For absences resulting from illness, students must either provide a signed note from a medical professional who has evaluated the student confirming the absence and giving an expected return date or have the school nurse verify the student’s absence with the medical professional treating the student. Families who lack health insurance and/or those with limited means may find it challenging to meet this requirement to obtain a note from a

licensed medical professional. In these cases, school nurses can evaluate the ill student, either in person or over the telephone, and, where appropriate, provide the required documentation for an excused absence.

For parents/guardians who are not proficient in reading and writing English, the schools shall make efforts to help these parents report their child's absences, including accepting notes in languages other than English. For parents who are not proficient in writing in any language, schools should verbally inform them of the attendance requirements and that they may report a student's absence in person at the school.

Absences for Emergency Situations

For the purposes of the definition of excused absences, emergencies are generally significant events that are outside of the control of the student's family. They are normally short absences consisting of a few days at most. The only required documentation is a parental note clearly explain the emergency situation that result in the student's absence. Examples of emergencies include, but are not limited to:

- Family member who is very ill and close to dying;
- Student's home is lost to fire or eviction;
- Family's home being quarantined;
- Natural disaster;
- A student who is a parent and whose child needs to go to the hospital; or
- A family member's military deployment or return from deployment.

Truancy

Connecticut State law defines a "truant" as a child age five to eighteen years, inclusive, who is enrolled in Groton Public Schools and has four (4) unexcused absences from school in any one month or ten (10) unexcused absences from school in any school year. Studies have shown that students who are truant are in danger of having significant difficulty in making the same academic progress as their peers who regularly attend school.

Within ten (10) school days after a student's fourth (4th) unexcused absence in a month or tenth (10th) unexcused absence in a school year, the school administration shall hold a meeting with the parent/guardian of the student who has become truant, or with such other person having control of the truant student, to review and evaluate the reasons for the child being truant.

If the truant student's parent/guardian, or other person having control of the truant student, fails to attend the required meeting or if such parent/guardian or other person otherwise fails to cooperate with the school administration in attempting to solve the truancy problem, the school administration will refer to recommendations from the Tiered Intervention document. ***Attendance letters will be mailed home each month to parents if their child is identified as "truant".**

Anti-Bullying - (Policy #5131.911)

The Groton Public Schools maintains a firm policy prohibiting bullying. Bullying is defined as the repeated use by one or more students of a written, oral or electronic communication, such as cyber bullying, directed at or referring to another student attending school in the same school district, or a physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student attending school in the same school district that:

- a. Causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student's property,
- b. Places such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or of damage to his or her property,
- c. Creates a hostile environment at school for such student,
- d. Infringes on the rights of such student at school, or
- e. Substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying shall include, but is not be limited to, a written, oral or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics.

Bullying may take many forms, such as but not limited to:

1. Physical violence and attacks;
2. Taunts, name-calling or put-downs or discriminatory slurs;
3. Targeting of a student based upon that person's actual or perceived "differentiating characteristics" such as race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, national or ethnic background, disability, physical appearance, socioeconomic status, or a student's association with a person or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics;
4. Threats and intimidation;
5. Extortion or stealing of money and possessions;
6. Cyber bullying means any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.

A comprehensive program to address bullying at all school levels is essential to reduce incidents of bullying. Therefore, bullying prevention and intervention programs shall be implemented at all Groton Public Schools. These programs will strive to develop a school environment:

- which firmly limits bullying behavior;
- where non-hostile, non-physical negative consequences are consistently applied in cases of bullying behavior;
- where adults act as authorities and positive role models; and where students and parents are included in efforts to improve the school climate.

Prevention and intervention strategies may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Implementing an evidenced-based model for positive behavioral interventions;
- A school climate survey;
- A bullying prevention committee;
- Clear display and reinforcement of school rules;
- Adult Supervision;
- School-wide training related to a safe school environment;
- Provision for the inclusion of language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying and annual notification of the process for reporting bullying.

The following standards shall be observed in dealing with observed bullying behavior:

1. Students are encouraged to report acts of bullying to teachers and school administrators, on an anonymous basis, if necessary or appropriate.
2. Parents or guardians of students may file written reports of suspected bullying with the school principal. Teachers and other school staff members who witness acts of bullying or receive student or parent reports of bullying are required to notify the school principal/designee immediately and in writing. This immediate communication must be accompanied by an acknowledgement that the principal/designee has received the information.
3. Principals or other designated school administrators shall investigate all written reports and review all anonymous reports of bullying, and report their findings to the Superintendent of Schools. Each such report shall include an intervention strategy where appropriate. No disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report. An anonymous report may lead to a more thorough investigation.
4. The parents or guardians of students who commit any verified acts of bullying shall be notified of the bullying behavior, including a description of the response of school staff to such acts and any consequences that may result from the commission of further acts of bullying. Both sets of parents/guardians will receive in writing an invitation to attend separate meetings to discuss intervention efforts. Documentation of invitations shall be maintained.
5. Appropriate corrective action shall be taken by school administrators to ensure that bullying behavior does not continue and to prevent retaliation against any person who reports, or is the victim of such bullying, including disciplinary and/or counseling action where appropriate.
6. Each of the Groton Public Schools shall maintain a list of the number of verified acts of bullying and shall make such list available for public inspection.
7. Reasonable training will be made to all staff holding an educational certificate where there is not an evidence-based model approach.
8. If anyone feels appropriate action has not been taken, a written complaint can be filed to the Title IX Coordinator.

Definitions:

A. **Bullying** is defined as the repeated use by one or more students of a written, oral or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying, directed at or referring to another student

attending school in the same school district, or a physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student attending school in the same school district that:

- a) causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student's property,
- b) places such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or of damage to his or her property,
- c) creates a hostile environment at school for such student,
- d) infringes on the rights of such student at school, or
- e) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying shall include, but is not be limited to, a written, oral or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics.

Bullying may take many forms, such as, but not limited to:

1. physical violence and attacks;
2. taunts, name-calling or discriminatory slurs, including but not limited to insulting, disparaging or derogatory comments regarding a person's race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, national or ethnic background, disability, physical appearance, socioeconomic status, or a student's association with a person or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics;
3. threats and intimidation;
4. extortion or stealing of money and possessions;
5. cyberbullying.

Weather Emergencies

Schools will be closed when weather conditions make it hazardous to transport children to the assigned schools. Notice of such closing is broadcast on local radio stations beginning at 6:00 a.m. through the School Messenger auto dialing system and on our website www.grotonschools.org. Please listen to the radio or television and check your messages and do not call the school, central office, police or radio stations. NOTE: it is important that your contact number be kept up-to-date with your child/children's school so that you receive all messages.

Should weather conditions develop during the day which would make bus travel dangerous, an early dismissal will be called. To prepare for the possibility of an unplanned early dismissal, it is suggested that parents arrange an alternate place for children to go in the event that no one is at home.

It is also possible that school opening will be delayed 2 hours when it appears that conditions will improve. Selected radio, television stations, School Messenger, and our web site

will carry the announcement for “no school” or delayed openings. Normal delayed openings will be 2 hours unless otherwise notified. Tune into any of the following for this information:

WBMW 106.5 FM	I98.3 FM
WCTY 97.7 FM	WFSB TV – Channel 3
WICH 1310 AM	WTNH TV – Channel 8
WKNL 100.9 FM	WVIT TV – Channel 30
WNLC 98.7 FM	GPS – Channel 19
WILI 1400 AM	

School Messenger: This is a “phone alert” system. The Superintendent will send messages home or to designated numbers to notify families of delays or cancellations.

FOOD SERVICES

The Groton Board of Education offers, where facilities permit, a program of food services as a participant in the National School Lunch Program. Prices may be subject to change by the Groton Board of Education. Free and reduced-price lunches and free milk are available to eligible children. A breakfast program is available at all schools. At the beginning of each school year, an application form and explanatory letters are sent to all parents. MyPaymentsPlus.com is available to pay for meals.

Lunch is not served on designated early dismissal days.

Snacks from Home:

We are not allowing outside snacks/food coming in with students or dropped off by parents. Parents can go to the MRMS website and go to student life, click Food Services and look for the healthy celebrations’ menu and order right from there for birthday celebrations.

SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM SERVICES

VNA of Southeastern CT provides the school nursing service for the Groton Schools. An on-site professional registered nurse is responsible for carrying out the many activities of the school health program. The professional registered nurse is assisted by school health aides in specific areas. The goal of the school health program is to assist each child to attain and maintain his/her optimum state of health so that he/she may benefit to the maximum degree from his/her

education experiences. The means of accomplishing this goal are to reduce the obstacles to learning caused by poor health and to contribute to education in healthful living.

Health Requirements for Registration

The Groton Board of Education, in accordance with the Connecticut General Statute (Section 10-204A), requires that the required immunizations be documented by submission of a record at the time of registration.

Immunization record or proof of immunity to certain diseases must be confirmed in writing by a physician or by lab confirmation. Parents or guardians may check the specifics of the required immunizations by contacting their child's pediatrician, the school nurse, or the school nurse supervisor at 860-444-1111.

According to Connecticut State Statute (Public Act 80-449; An Act Concerning School Health), all students are required to have a health assessment and mandated immunizations prior to public school enrollment.

Military students who do not have proof of an updated physical examination and/or immunization records upon registering for school will have 30 school days from the first day the student attends school to submit all necessary documentation to the school nurse. Military students will be subject to exclusion from school if the health requirements are not met within the 30-school day grace period.

Medical exemptions must be accompanied by a physician's note and a religious exemption must be accompanied by a written statement from the parent/guardian.

Each medical record will be reviewed by school nursing staff and verification will be made as to compliance with State Statute. This information will be transferred to a permanent health record and should be kept current by notifying the school nurse when your child receives updated immunizations and physical examinations.

The required immunizations are as follows:

1. DTP/DTaP/TD
2. Polio
3. Hemophilus Influenza Type B (HIB)
4. Hepatitis B (HBV)
5. Measles, Rubella & Mumps (MMR)
6. Varicella
7. Pneumococcal
8. Influenza
9. Hepatitis A

Health Services Offered

The school nurse is available for counseling in these situations:

1. **Illness** – Counsels students, contacts parents as necessary.
2. **First Aid** – Administers first aid and emergency care as needed.
3. **Immunization Clinics** – Information regarding clinics can be obtained from the school nurse.
4. **Physical Examinations** – Provided by SBHC with parental permission. Prior to grades 6, 10 and sports activities at the Middle and High Schools.
5. **Scoliosis Screening** – For students in grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.
6. **Vision Tests** – For specific grade levels and for anyone who is referred.
7. **Hearing Tests** – For specific grade levels and for anyone who is referred.
8. **Teacher Nurse Conferences.**
9. **Health Education** – Does health education sessions on varying subjects in the classroom as a resource person.
10. **Health Counseling Services** – To students, parents, and faculty in relation to health problems.
11. **Home Visits** – Made on behalf of students for varying reasons.
12. **Multi-Disciplinary Team Member** – Works as needed with all professional school personnel to find the appropriate educational program for individual students.

Please contact our school nurse with any questions or problems which you may encounter regarding the health of your child.

Physical Examinations

Each pupil enrolled in the public schools is required to have a health examination at periodic intervals. It is required that the first examination be done within the year preceding the child's entrance to school. A health assessment form shall be given to you on the registration day. Physical assessments are required in grade 6 and grade 10. These must be completed prior to that school year or the student will be excluded from school the beginning of the next year. Please refer to the Board policy on Physical Examinations on page 29 of this handbook.

Mandated components of the physical examination are as follows:

1. Hematocrit or hemoglobin test, height, weight and blood pressure; speech upon school entry;
2. Gross dental exam, vision, hearing, scoliosis screening and chronic disease assessment;
3. Immunizations as listed above.

Conferences will be held with the parents or guardian and the school nurse on the day of registration.

TB Testing (PPD)

Skin testing to be done if student falls into certain high-risk groups or at the discretion of the physician.

GENERAL SCHOOL HEALTH INFORMATION

Health Records: An individual cumulative health record is maintained for each child. The information recorded shall consist of a health history filled out by the parent or guardian at the time of registration. Results of ongoing screening tests are also incorporated into the record as they are performed at school. It is imperative that the parent/guardian notify the school nurse if a child has received an update on immunization or has received a physical examination from the family physician. This cooperative effort is extremely beneficial in ensuring effective health care and will prevent supplication of effort.

Health problems may restrict some students from participation in some school activities, such as physical education. In these circumstances, a note from a family physician describing the condition and advising the type and length of restriction is required. Permanent excuses must be renewed at the opening of each school year.

Communicable Disease: If a child is absent due to a diagnosed communicable disease such as chicken pox, please notify the school. When your child has recovered, he/she may be readmitted by the school nurse. In certain cases, such as infectious hepatitis, it may be necessary to have a readmission slip from a physician.

Emergencies: Health care provided in schools is restricted to first aid in accidents and illness. Emergency cards, providing written authorization for further care, as well as names of physicians and other persons to be called in an emergency, should be on file for each child. It is of prime importance that the school be provided with an emergency telephone number in case of a medical emergency or routine illness which requires exclusion. The parent/guardian shall provide the school with an alternate telephone number of a relative, or neighbor, who has agreed to respond when the parent or guardian cannot be reached. This person should live within a reasonable distance from the school and be willing to accept the responsibility of providing transportation so that the child can be picked up at the school. This person will be responsible for your child's care and decisions made in your absence. The school will immediately summon an ambulance in cases of serious emergency.

Medication in the Schools: Students are not allowed to have any type of medications in the school. A physician's written order and parent's or guardian's authorization is required for a nurse or, in her absence, the principal or designee to administer medications. A form is available at each school to be filled out by the prescribing physician and signed by the parent or guardian. This form is returned to the school and kept with the child's health record.

Self-administration of medication will be allowed provided certain criteria are met. In the case of inhalant medications, self-administration may be approved with a prescription from a physician and written parental consent on file.

The medication must be given to the school nurse by the parent or guardian. The medication can then be administered, as prescribed by the school nurse, or in her absence, the principal or designee. These forms must be reviewed at specified intervals.

No more than a 3-month supply of medication can be kept at the school at one time. Parents should pick up any unused medications at the end of the school year or they will be destroyed.

Exclusion: A child can be excluded from school for various illnesses or injuries. The school nurse recommends exclusion to the principal or designee according to the policies set by the school medical advisors and the State Department of Health. Students are also excluded if there is evidence of pediculosis or scabies.

Groton Public Schools Student 2024-2025 Calendar

JULY 2024					0/0
M	T	W	Th	F	
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	
29	30	31			

4, 5 July 4th Recess
8-31 Sp. Ed. Summer School
Summer School 9-12 at FHS - TBD

AUGUST 2024					7/2
M	T	W	Th	F	
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

1-15 Sp.Ed. Ext ABA Summer Session
22 Freshmen Orientation
29 First Day of School (1-12)
30 First Day of School kindergarten, Transitional kindergarten

SEPTEMBER 2024					20/22
M	T	W	Th	F	
2	3	4	5	6	
9	10	11	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27	
30					

2 Labor Day
3 First Day of School (Preschool, PreK)
17 TLI-Early Dismissal

Marking Period	Period Ends	Report Cards Issued
GRADES K - 5	NOV. 26 MAR. 12 JUNE 12	Report Cards will be distributed within 10 school days after the marking period
GRADES 6 - 8	NOV. 1 JAN. 23 MAR. 31 JUNE 12	Report Cards will be distributed within 10 school days after the semester ends.
GRADES 9 - 12	NOV. 1 JAN. 23 MAR. 31 JUNE 12	Report Cards will be distributed within 10 school days after the semester ends.

OCTOBER 2024					22/44
M	T	W	Th	F	
	1	2	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30	31		

8 TLI-Early Dismissal
14 Columbus/Indigenous People's Day
23, 24, 25 Parent/Teacher Conference

NOVEMBER 2024					16/60
M	T	W	Th	F	
				1	
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

5 Professional Development
11 Veteran's Day
27, 28, 29 Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER 2024					15/75
M	T	W	Th	F	
2	3	4	5	6	
9	10	11	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27	
30	31				

10 TLI-Early Dismissal
23-31 Winter Holiday Recess

School Hours:	
Pre-Kindergarten/Preschool - A.M.	9:00 a.m. - 11:48 a.m.
Pre-Kindergarten/Preschool - P.M.	12:48 p.m. - 3:35 p.m.
Elementary	9:00 a.m. - 3:35 p.m.
Middle School	7:50 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
High School	7:40 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.

JANUARY 2025					21/96
M	T	W	Th	F	
		1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30	31	

1 New Year's Day
14 TLI-Early Dismissal
20 Martin Luther King Day

FEBRUARY 2025					16/114
M	T	W	Th	F	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	

11 TLI-Early Dismissal
17, 18 Presidents Day Recess

MARCH 2025					20/134
M	T	W	Th	F	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	
31					

7 Professional Development
11 TLI-Early Dismissal
26 Parent/Teacher Conference - Early Dismissal (Elementary only)
27, 28 Parent/Teacher Conference - Early Dismissal (Elementary & Middle)

Planned Early Dismissal (Parent/Teacher Conference, TLI):	
Elementary School: A.M. PreK/Preschool	9:00 a.m. - 11:08 a.m.
P.M. PreK/Preschool	No classes
Grades K-5	9:00 a.m. - 1:20 p.m.
Middle School: Grade 6-8	7:50 a.m. - 12:17 p.m.
High School: Grade 9-12	7:40 a.m. - 12:07 p.m.

APRIL 2025					17/151
M	T	W	Th	F	
	1	2	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30			

14-17 Spring Recess
18 Good Friday
29 TLI-Early Dismissal

MAY 2025					21/172
M	T	W	Th	F	
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

13 TLI-Early Dismissal
26 Memorial Day

JUNE 2025					9/181
M	T	W	Th	F	
2	3	4	5	6	
9	10	11	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27	
30					

12 Tentative Last Day of School, Early Dismissal
13-18, 20 Snow Make-Up day
19 Juneteenth Day
FHS Graduation - TBD*

Emergency Dismissal: Weather related:	
Elementary School: A.M. PreK/Preschool	9:00 a.m. - 11:08 a.m.
P.M. PreK/Preschool	No classes
Grades K-5	9:00 a.m. - 1:20 p.m.
Middle School: Grade 6-8	7:50 a.m. - 12:17 p.m.
High School: Grade 9-12	7:40 a.m. - 12:07 p.m.

2 Hour Delayed Openings: Emergency/Weather related	
Elementary School: A.M. PreK/Preschool	No Classes
P.M. PreK/Preschool	12:48 p.m. - 3:35 p.m.
Grades K-5	11:00 a.m. - 3:35 p.m.
Middle School: Grade 6-8	9:50 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
High School: Grade 9-12	9:40 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.

3 Hour Delayed Openings: Emergency/Weather related	
Elementary School: A.M. PreK/Preschool	No Classes
P.M. PreK/Preschool	No Classes
Grades K-5	12:00 p.m. - 3:35 p.m.
Middle School: Grade 6-8	10:50 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
High School: Grade 9-12	10:40 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.

No school for students
Early Dismissal (Parent Teacher, Teacher Learning Initiative (TLI...))
* Graduation date to be determined after February of each school year

Board of Education meetings are held on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Mondays of each month. Call 860-572-2100 or tune in to GPS Channel 19 for more information. In the case of inclement weather, please check the website (www.grotonschools.org).

Adopted: 10/23/2023
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Updated: 7/12/2024