

New Durham School Student & Family Handbook

2025-2026



Governor Wentworth Regional School District
SAU 49

Helping Each Child Create The Future

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Notice of New Hampshire Parental Bill of Rights

New Hampshire Parental Bill of Rights (HB2, codified in new RSA 189-B)

A. New Hampshire Parental Bill of Rights

- I. All parental rights are reserved to the parents of a minor child in this state without obstruction or interference from any school. These rights include, but are not limited to, the right:
 1. To direct the upbringing and the moral or religious training.
 2. To direct the education, including the right to choose to enroll the minor child in an assigned resident public school, a public charter school, a non-public school, including a religious school, a home education program, or any other state-based education program, as authorized by law, as an alternative to public education, as set forth in RSA 193:1 and RSA 194-F:1, et seq.
 3. To request that a minor child be enrolled in a public school other than the public school assigned to them by their residence to avoid a manifest educational hardship, as set forth in RSA 193:3.
 4. To enroll his or her minor child in gifted or special education programs if the child qualifies for such programs.
 5. To inquire of the school or school personnel and promptly receive accurate, truthful, and complete disclosure regarding any and all matters related to their minor child, unless an immediate answer cannot be provided when the initial request is made, in which case, the answer shall be provided no later than 10 business days after the request.
 6. To be informed of the school's policy regarding discipline policies and procedures, as set forth in RSA 193:13.
 7. To obtain access for a minor child to public curricular courses and co-curricular programs offered by the local school district where the student resides while choosing to enroll their child in a non- public, public chartered, home education, or any other state-based education program, as set forth in RSA 193:1-c and RSA 194-F:2, II(d).
 8. To inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum within a reasonable period following a request, as set forth in 20 U.S.C. section 1232h(c)(1)(C).
 9. To opt out of health or sex education and any other objectionable material, as set forth in RSA 186:11, IX-b and IX-c.

10. To be advised of and have the right to opt the minor child out of any nonacademic survey or questionnaire.
 11. To opt out of any district-level data collection relating to his or her minor child not required by federal or state law.
 12. To exempt their public-school minor child from participating in required statewide assessments in English, language arts, mathematics, and/or science, as set forth in RSA 193-C:6.
 13. To receive information regarding the level of achievement and academic growth of their minor child in the state academic assessments in English, language arts, mathematics, and/or science, as set forth in the Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 U.S.C. section 1112 (e)(1)(B)(i).
 14. To receive a school report card and be informed of his or her minor child's attendance requirements and compliance with such requirements.
 15. To access and review all education records relating to their minor child within 10 business days after the day the school receives a request for access, as set forth in RSA 189:66, IV and 34 C.F.R. 99.5.
 16. To consent in writing before the state or any of its political subdivisions, including, without limitation, any school pursuant also to the provisions of RSA 189:68, III-V, makes a video or voice recording, unless such recording is made during or as part of a court proceeding or part of a forensic interview in a criminal or other investigation by the bureau of child protective services or it is to be used solely for the purpose of a safety demonstration, including the maintenance of order and discipline in the common areas of a school or on student transportation vehicles.
 17. To be notified whenever seclusion or restraint has been used on their minor child as set forth in RSA 126-U:7.
 18. To access and review all medical records of their minor child maintained by a school or school personnel, unless otherwise prohibited by law.
 19. To exempt their minor child from immunizations if, in the opinion of a physician, the immunization is detrimental to the child's health or because of religious beliefs, as set forth in RSA 141-C:20-a and RSA 141-C:20-c.
- II. Federal law provides for additional parent and family involvement for schools that are receiving Title I, Part A; Title I, Part C (migrant); Title III, Part A (EL) funds, including:
1. The right to receive information, including student reports, in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practicable, in a

language that parents can understand, as set forth in 20 U.S.C. sections 1112(e)(4); 1114(b)(4); 1116(e)(5); and 1116(f).

2. Upon request of the parent, the right to receive information regarding state qualifications of the student's classroom teachers and paraprofessionals providing services to their minor child, as set forth in 20 U.S.C. section 1112(e)(1)(A)(i-ii).
3. The right to receive an annual local educational agency report card that includes information on such agency as a whole and each school served by the agency, as set forth in 20 U.S.C. section 1111(h)(2)(A- B)(i-iii).

Staff List & Contact Information

Principal: Kelly Colby-Seavey..... kcolbyseaveysau49nh.gov

Grade 6 Teacher: Michelle Craycraft..... mcraycraft@sau49nh.gov

Grade 5 Teacher: Karen Beaverstock..... kbeaverstock@sau49nh.gov

Grade 4 Teacher: Brianna Vatalaro..... bfoy@sau49nh.gov

Grade 4 Teacher: Deb Daniels Wollmar..... ddanielswollmar@sau49nh.gov

Grade 3 Teacher: Cindy Finethy..... cfinethy@sau49nh.gov

Grade 2 Teacher: Courtney Stevens..... cstevens@sau49nh.gov

Grade 1 Teacher: Sarah Creighton..... screighton@sau49nh.gov

Kindergarten Teacher: Casey Malo..... cmalo@sau49nh.gov

Preschool Teacher: Autumn Gaska..... agaska@sau49nh.gov

Art Teacher: Michael Stasiuk..... mstasiuk@sau49nh.gov

Music/Band/Chorus: Kristin Johnson..... kjohnson@sau49nh.gov

DPT/Speech Pathologist..... cramsay@sau49nh.gov

Health Teacher: Liz Bronson..... ebronson@sau49nh.gov

Library/Media Specialist: Kim Nottage..... knottage@sau49nh.gov

Math Coach: Christie Diamond..... cdiamond@sau49nh.gov

Occupational Therapist: Casey Lalkas..... clalkas@sau49nh.gov

Physical Education Teacher: Brian Swinerton..... bswinerton@sau49nh.gov

Reading Specialist: Jaclyn Benson..... jbenson@sau49nh.gov

School Nurse: Darlene Eddows.....deddows@sau49nh.gov

School Counselor: Keith Conley..... kconley@sau49nh.gov

Special Education Teacher: Kim Morrisette.....kmorrisette@sau49nh.gov

Special Education Teacher: Meagen Moriarty.....mmoriarty@sau49nh.gov

District Policies and School Calendar

A complete copy of all GWRSD School Board Policies can be found [here](#).

If you would like a printed copy of a specific policy, please contact the school.

Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of sex or other protected categories in its education programs and activities, as required by federal and state laws/regulations.

Discrimination against and harassment of students because of age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, ancestry or national origin, marital status, familial status, physical or mental disability, religion or economic status are prohibited.

Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity (Policy AC) [is found here](#)

Procedures for Policy AC are found [here](#).

Regulations for Policy AC are found [here](#)

The 2025-2026 School Calendar can be found [here](#).

Daily Procedures

Daily Schedule

8:30am Earliest time students are allowed to be dropped off New Durham School

8:45am School Begins, Breakfast program ends and students are returned to classrooms

8:46am Students are marked tardy if not at school. 11:30am-1:30pm Recesses and lunches for various grade levels.

3:15pm End of Day Announcements, as needed. Parent Pick Up students dismissed.

3:15pm: Walkers dismissed

3:15pm-3:30pm: Buses dismissed in order of arrival. If buses are more than 15 minutes late from their usual time, parents/guardians will be notified via ParentSquare.

Dismissal Procedure

We have three categories for dismissal at NDS:

Parent Pick Up/ Walkers: These students will be transported by car with an approved adult. Cars will drive up to New Durham School, following across the front in rows. Names of children will be called out. Staff will walk students to cars.

Bussers: Students taking the bus will be dismissed in the order the bus arrives. Families are asked to communicate with transportation via the yearly survey and by calling 603-569-2684 to ensure your child knows the color name of their bus. If your child is going to take a bus home that is different from his/her typical route, please send in a note to the main office.

Dismissal Changes

If you wish to make changes in your child's normal departure, please send in a note or email the main office: lmeatley@sau49nh.gov . To ensure your child's safety, when changes are made to routine dismissal procedures, students are not allowed to leave the school with anyone or by any means unless specified, in advance, by a custodial parent or guardian. The parent/guardian, or designee authorized by parent/guardian, must report to the main office to dismiss the child. Individuals who are unfamiliar to school personnel but have permission to pick up a student, may be required to provide photo identification. Phone arrangements are discouraged, but if necessary, please make the call prior to 2:00pm so as to avoid confusion or potential safety issues. The school day ends at 3:15 pm. Students are dismissed at 3:15 pm for parent pick-up and walkers. Bus students are dismissed between 3:20-3:30 pm depending upon the arrival of buses.

General Information

Attendance

Regular and punctual patterns of attendance is required of each student. Student attendance is the responsibility of the parents/guardian and student. We appreciate your continued understanding and cooperation in our effort to ensure your child's attendance. School begins at 8:40 am - Students are marked tardy after 8:50 am. **Students may begin to arrive at school no earlier than 8:15 am unless previously arranged with a staff member.** Dismissal - The school day ends at 3:15 pm. Students are dismissed at 3:15 pm for parent pick-up and walkers. Bus students are dismissed between 3:20-3:30 pm depending upon the arrival of buses.

- Absence - If your child is going to be absent, please call the school office 603- and state the name of the student, date of absence, and reason.
- Tardiness - It is the responsibility of the student and the parent/guardian that students arrive on time. However, If you are bringing your child to school late, parents/guardians/caretaker must walk the child into the building and sign them in. Students may not be dropped off at the curb. Oversleeping is not a good reason for being tardy. Extenuating circumstances such as doctor's appointments and family emergencies do occur and are understandable. Students who are tardy due to bus delays are excused and not counted as tardy.
- Please see further information contained in the GWRSD policy on Student Attendance, Absences, and Truancy [here](#)

Birthday Celebrations

Birthday treats are welcome, but must adhere to any allergy-specific needs in the classroom and our school district wellness policy. In keeping with that policy, suggested birthday snacks include:

Drinks:

100% Fruit/Vegetable Juice

Water/Flavored Water (calorie free)

Low-fat or fat-free milk

Snacks:

Fresh Fruit assortment

100% Fruit juice popsicles

Fruit and cheese kabobs

Fruit platters

100% fruit snacks

Vegetable trays

Cheese-cubes, string cheese

Pretzels

Low-fat popcorn

Graham crackers

Animal crackers

Angel food cake – plain or topped with fruit

Low-fat pudding

Low-fat yogurt or parfaits

Trail/Cereal Mixes or Bars

Popcorn

Whole grain muffins that are low in fat and sugar

If you have a question about sending in a birthday treat, please contact your child's classroom teacher. The full wellness policy can be found [here](#).

We know each family enjoys celebrating their child's birthday; however, sending individual invitations to children sets up a difficult situation for those not invited. Unless all students in a class are receiving a birthday invitation, they should be distributed outside of the school day.

Cell Phone Use

To help all students focus and learn without distractions, and to align with RSA 189:1-a, V (2025), students **cannot use personal devices** (like phones, tablets, smartwatches, or laptops) **during the school day**, including during class time, lunch, recess, and passing time.

If students bring a device to school, it must be powered off and kept in a locker, backpack, or bag from the start of the school day to dismissal. Exceptions may be made for documented medical reasons, learning needs, or language proficiency support as outlined in a student's education plan (e.g., IEP or 504 Plan). The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal devices.

Students participating in extracurricular activities (after-school clubs, athletics, or activities) or field trips must follow the rules regarding personal communication devices set by the coach, instructor, or activity supervisor. At no time, however, may devices be used to take pictures, videos, or recordings of others without their permission, and devices can never be used in bathrooms or locker rooms.

If a personal device is used during the school day, consequences will be as follows.

- **First Offense:** Student will receive a warning and the device must be powered off and put away.
- **Second Offense:** Student will receive an office referral and the device will be held in the office until the end of the school day. The parent/guardian will be notified and the student may pick up the device at the end of school day.
- **Third Offense:** Student will receive an office referral and the device will be held in the office until the end of the school day. The parent/guardian will be notified and the student may pick up the device at the end of the school day. The device must be turned into the office every day for a week.
- **Subsequent Offenses:** In addition to receiving the consequences for the third offense, the student must turn in the device to the office for an extended period of time.

Additional consequences will follow the Student Code of Conduct for behaviors or offenses that occur beyond the use of a personal communication device.

Please refer to Policy JICJ for the full policy.

Dress Code

Please find the GWRSD policy [here](#). The school board policy states "Principals, or their designees, are authorized to interpret this policy in their respective buildings

as appropriate and necessary.” It also states that the “following apparel is not to be worn during the school day: clothing with offensive, lewd, vulgar, or racist language or pictures, tops that do not properly cover the upper body and mid-section, bottoms that do not properly cover the lower body, or clothing that glorifies, encourages, or promotes the use of alcohol or other drugs.”

Head coverings, hats, hoods are not allowed in the office area where our staff must be able to see and identify students. Other classroom areas such as PE class will not allow students to wear head coverings for safety reasons. In other areas of the school, including classrooms, students may be asked to remove any hat, hood, or head covering if such article is interfering with learning. This decision is at the discretion of the teacher or staff member. Please refer to the district policy JICA linked at the beginning of this section.

General Guidelines for Determining Appropriate Dress:

Tops/Tops of Dresses – All tops shall cover at least the entire shoulder area and extend to the start of the clothing article that covers the lower body. Bare middles or the exposure of cleavage shall not be permitted. Tops shall not be sheer nor shall they permit the exposure of any part of a student’s undergarments. There shall be no holes in the garment that create an indecent exposure of the student’s body. No spaghetti strap tops are allowed.

Footwear – Footwear must be worn and be of a type that does not damage property, create a distraction to others nor generate a potential hazard to the wearer. Examples of unacceptable footwear include, but are not limited to: cleated boots, steel toed boots, shoes or boots with heels that mar, platform shoes, flip-flops, and footwear that creates excessive noise when the wearer is walking. At Crescent Lake School, students have recess daily. For this reason, students need sturdy shoes that cover their toes and have a back strap. Sandals, flip-flops, sliders, slippers are not allowed as they do not cover the toes or have a backstrap. Crocs are allowed only if students are wearing the back ankle strap. Medical exceptions to these rules can be discussed and reviewed through parent/guardian and school administration.

Slacks - All slacks must be worn at the waistline and must not drag on the floor when the wearer is walking. Slacks shall be neither excessively baggy nor overly tight. The slacks shall hide undergarments and there shall be no holes in the garment.

Skirts/Dresses – Skirts shall be worn from the waistline with a minimum length of approximately 3 inches above the knee. Skirts deemed to be overly tight shall not be acceptable. Any slits in the garment shall not extend higher than approximately 3 inches above the knee. Skirts shall not be sheer nor shall they have any holes in the material that create an indecent exposure of the student's body.

Shorts – Students may wear shorts provided that the garment conforms to the dress standard. The shorts must be worn at the waistline with a minimum length of approximately 3 inches above the knee. They shall not be sheer nor overly tight.

Jewelry – No jewelry or accessories shall be worn that could be considered a safety problem. Examples include but are not limited to: oversized earrings, pocket chains or other heavy chains, spiked collars, spiked wristbands, etc. Jewelry or accessories that create a distraction, generate a hazard, or provide a reference to sex, violence, discrimination or drugs (including alcohol and tobacco) shall be considered inappropriate.

Exceptions: The Board recognizes that circumstances may necessitate reasonable variations in the student dress code. Some of the exceptions that may be considered by the building principal and/or Superintendent of Schools include:

A medical condition supported by a written order from a qualified physician
Field trips where, due to the nature of the planned activities, a variation in clothing is temporarily requested for the duration of the trip.

Special program requirements such as the wearing of gym shorts for physical education class.

Special dress that is required as part of a school-to-work experience

A costume that is part of an approved play

An approved uniform worn by an athletic team

Special school events that specify a temporary variation in the dress code.

Enforcement and Consequences:

The Board believes that it is every employee's responsibility to enforce the standard of dress articulated in Policy JICCA (linked at the beginning of this section) and this Regulation. Violation of this policy will result in referral to the principal's office and may include disciplinary consequences for repeat offenders.

Lost and Found

There is a "lost and found" table located. If you have lost something, check this location. To avoid this prospect, we recommend labeling all student apparel. If you find something that does not belong to you, please bring it to the office. Students should not bring large sums of money or valuable personal items to school. Under no circumstances is the school responsible for lost or stolen items.

Our Lost and Found is cleared out and items are donated after vacations and at the end of the school year.

Photographs/Videos

We love to capture the fun and exciting things that happen here at school and we love even more to share it with our community! Photographs and videos of your child will only be shared if you give permission for us to do so. This permission is provided through the registration process and the annual Infinite Campus updates.

Recess

All children are expected to participate in outdoor recess, unless excused for medical reasons with a doctor's note. Active play is an important part in ensuring that children are ready for learning. It is the family's responsibility to see that a child is properly dressed for the day's weather conditions. This may include a raincoat, hat, mittens, snow pants, coat, or boots depending on the weather. Closed toed shoes with a back strap around ankles are required for participation at recess (see dress code). During winter months and to be able to play in the snow, students need the "Frosty 5" - winter jacket, snow pants, snow boots, gloves or mittens, and a winter hat. Please label your child's apparel to help avoid confusion with other children's clothing. If it is especially cold and your child does not come with proper clothing, they may be referred to the nurse's office to borrow items needed to keep them comfortable and safe while outside. Recess provides a wonderful opportunity to take a break and come back to the academic rigors of the classroom refreshed. Research has shown that recess before lunch is healthier for students. When at all possible, students will have recess prior to lunch. Research has also shown that daily exercise, fresh air and exposure to nature enhance student learning.

Weapons

Knives, water pistols, guns and other dangerous items or "look alike" weapons, are not allowed in school or on school property. Such items will be confiscated and NOT returned. Violation of this regulation is considered to be serious and will be treated with strict disciplinary measures. (Policy [JICI](#))

Safety & Emergency Procedures

Emergency Plan

For the safety of students and staff, we work closely with the police and fire department to have a comprehensive safety plan.

Major crises, especially catastrophic events, are rare in our nation's schools but being prepared is important.

Our plan addresses emergency management planning as well as building security. We will continually and routinely refine our plan in collaboration with the police and fire department based on experience, research, and changing vulnerabilities.

We regularly practice emergency drills to ensure that our staff and students know what to do in case of an emergency. Research shows that the more we practice the drills, the more prepared that we are to respond in the way we should. Drills may include evacuation, reverse evacuation, shelter-in-place, lockdown, and fire. The objective of these drills is to help staff and students feel prepared and remain calm in the event of an actual emergency situation.

Inclement Weather/School Closing

Information on school delays and closings will be sent via email, text, and/or call from the superintendent's office. We use ParentSquare to communicate all messages. Please make sure your information is updated in Infinite Campus and that you have downloaded the ParentSquare app to ensure that you don't miss this important information from our superintendent. This information will also be posted on WMUR.

School Doors and Entrance

All doors to the school are kept locked while students are in the building. The front door is equipped with a buzzer system to gain entry to the building. If you need to

enter the building during school hours, please use the buzzer located near the front door. If you are dropping off something for your student, there is a pass-through window that can be used for this purpose, also.

Office Procedures

Change of Address

If a student's address, phone number, or other important information should change during the school year, the office must be notified and Infinite Campus must be updated. In case of an emergency, it is vital that the office has accurate information.

Message to Students

When you find it necessary to telephone your child at school to leave a message, the message will be relayed to him or her as efficiently as possible. Since it is very busy during dismissal time, we ask that you call before 2:00 pm. This will ensure that your child receives the message. Teachers, students, and classrooms will not be interrupted during learning time unless there is an emergency. While emailing the classroom teacher can also be a way to communicate a change of plans with your child, please note that teachers are often busy with instruction and not checking email. Including the main office

School Records

Parents have a right to examine their children's records. This may be done by contacting the school office to set up an appointment to do so.

Visitors

We welcome and encourage visitors to our school. If you wish to visit a specific classroom at a certain time, please call and make arrangements to do so. In order to maintain a safe environment, all visitors must report to the main office to obtain a volunteer/visitor badge. Please help us by cooperating with this procedure.

Transportation

Governor Wentworth School District maintains its own fleet of buses. Issues regarding bus routes or individual stops should be brought to the attention of the transportation department. If you have a concern or question regarding your child's bus route or stop, please call the director of transportation at 569-2684. Although bus discipline is covered in the discipline section of the handbook, parents and students should be aware of the following information regarding our transportation system:

Bus drivers are not permitted to load or unload pupils at other than their authorized bus stops

Should a child need to ride a different bus on occasion, prior approval is required. Parents must write a note to be given to the classroom teacher before the scheduled change.

We discourage children from changing bus routes for attending parties or other group activities. As our buses are usually full, we can't guarantee there will be room for everyone.

Glass containers of any kind may not be transported on the bus.

Due to the safety hazard created by helium balloons on the bus, they may not be transported on district buses.

No eating is allowed on the bus at any time.

Animals of any kind may not be transported on the bus.

Skis, snowboards or skateboards, due to their size, may not be transported on district buses.

Children should arrive to their bus stops at least five minutes before the bus usually arrives. Waiting until the last minute, then running to get to the bus on time is not a safe situation.

Because of the limited space on a bus, children should not have objects hanging off their backpacks. If brushed by another child's backpack, children can be scratched or if the object falls off the backpack, it can create a hazardous situation for the driver.

Children should never be removed from the bus line without notifying the office first.

To ensure the safety of our students, all the district buses have been equipped with camera boxes. Cameras are active on a rotating basis. Audio taping is not part of the monitoring system. If you have questions about the use of video on the buses please feel free to contact the director of transportation or the principal.

School buses are the safest form of motorized transportation. Children are most vulnerable to harm when loading or disembarking from the bus. Please remember to STOP for school buses with red lights flashing, and watch out for children boarding and leaving school buses.

Academics

Code of Conduct

The Governor Wentworth Regional School District is a community built upon kindness and respect. It is the expectation that all students will act in a manner that is safe, kind, respectful, and responsible. Our goal is to have a school climate that is welcoming, positive, and engaging for all. The staff will work to teach and model expected behaviors to all students and all students will be held accountable for their own behavior. We do understand and appreciate that this could look different for every child and that at times students may struggle with their choices. Our approach will be one of a restorative nature and we will work with the students and families to help own and fix behavior, move forward in a positive way, and ultimately change behaviors if necessary. Please know that while our goal is always to help students recognize and address behavior if needed, we also want to ensure a safe learning environment for all. When a student acts in a way that is unsafe, unkind, irresponsible, or disrespectful, a supervising adult must make a decision about how to best respond and protect the student and others, and to prevent the same behavior from happening again. When necessary staff will refer an incident to the office and depending on the situation, students should expect any of the following outcomes:

- Time away from class or activity
- Loss of recess or privilege
- Student conference
- Parent phone call
- Parent conference
- Suspension: Depending on the seriousness of the offense, a student may be required to serve an

in-school or out-of-school suspension.

Please see the GWRSD policy on Student Conduct [here](#). Code of Conduct regulations are found [here](#).

Technology

We are very fortunate to be able to offer one-to-one technology across the District. The use of technology is a privilege and students are expected to comply with the Student Electronic Communications policy (found [here](#)). The School District Internet Access policy can be found [here](#). Any student in violation of this policy may lose the privilege to use their school-issued devices and online platforms. The GWRSD Data Governance policy can be found [here](#) and the Data Governance Manual, updated as needed, can be found [here](#).

Field Trips

Field trips are considered enrichment to the curriculum and support the learning of our students, with approval from the Superintendent. In order for your child to participate in a field trip, a permission form must be completed and turned in prior to departure. Field trips are planned as a class activity and an opportunity for students to interact with classmates in a different educational setting. Students are expected to be transported as a group to a field trip location unless a special circumstance exists and approval is given by the principal for a different means of transportation. Parents/guardians are encouraged to chaperone however, please be aware that we are sometimes limited to the number of chaperones that can attend due to space or requirements of the place being visited. Also any parent wishing to chaperone must be fingerprinted. No cell phones, smartwatches, or other personal electronic devices are permitted on bus rides for field trips. Please see the cell phone use listed under General Information for more.

Grading

GWRSD uses a standards-based grading system for all students K-6. Standards-based grading looks at end of year grade-level standards and report

cards reflect a student's progress towards those standards. Students are graded on a 1-4 scale for academics as well as their work habits. Your child's classroom teacher will provide more information about this during the fall parent/teacher conferences. Interim and report cards are sent out via email throughout the year. If you'd prefer to receive a paper copy of your child's reports, please let the main office know.

Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher conferences are an important time to connect with your child's teacher about their progress. Our teachers want to meet with every family to ensure that you know how your child is doing in school and to answer any questions you may have about their progress. Your child's success in school is a team effort and we value your insight and thoughts. Conferences will be scheduled during the early release (November 7th) and in-service day (November 10th). Your child's teacher will reach out with information about how to sign up for this conference. Our staff are happy to meet with parents/guardians at any time of the year, in addition to conferences, as warranted or requested.

2025-2026 Marking Periods

October 17, 2025: Trimester 1 Interims Close

October 24, 2025: Trimester 1 Interim Report Emailed Home

December 5, 2025: Trimester 1 Ends

December 12, 2025: Trimester 1 Report Cards Emailed Home

January 30, 2026: Trimester 2 Interims Close

February 6, 2026: Trimester 2 Interim Report Emailed Home

March 19, 2026: Trimester 2 Ends

March 26, 2026: Trimester 2 Report Cards Emailed Home

May 8, 2026: Trimester 3 Interim Closes

May 15, 2026: Trimester 3 Interim Reports Emailed Home

(Tentative) June 17, 2026: Trimester 3 Ends & Report Cards Emailed Home

Curriculum

The curriculum focus is on the four core areas of language arts (reading, writing, spelling, listening/speaking), math, science, and social studies and each of these areas is aligned with state and national standards. Staff members refer to the core curriculum when developing integrated units of study. Curriculum information for families can be found [here](#).

Art Education

All students in grades -6 receive art instruction once a week. Art lessons encompass an introduction to famous art works and styles, use of material, art vocabulary and concepts appropriate to the student's age level. Skills are built upon each year. Students may have some exposure to computer graphics. Wherever possible, art projects or units will be integrated with classroom units.

General and Vocal Music

General music and vocal instruction are provided for all grade levels. The curriculum is designed to introduce and build concepts that are appropriate at each grade level with the long-range goal of providing students a basic knowledge and appreciation for all types of music. The music teacher also works with the classroom teacher to integrate music into special thematic units taught in the regular classroom.

In addition to classroom activities, students at all grade levels have the opportunity to participate in performances throughout the year. Vocal instruction is further enhanced at School by optional participation in chorus (for grades 4-6). The chorus performs in the annual holiday and spring concerts.

Physical Education

Every student in grades -6 receives physical education once a week. The physical education curriculum is designed to introduce various activities that emphasize fun, continual movement and individual skills instead of team competition. Students will have the opportunity to try new and exciting things. In P.E. students will experience the teaching of key life skills including cooperation, self-esteem, honesty, and goal setting in a fun and supportive environment. The goal of the P.E. program is to give the students the necessary skills to build a foundation towards creating a lifetime of health and fitness.

To be prepared for P.E. class, students must wear sneakers (fully laced and tied) and comfortable clothing for activity. Students should come to school on their P.E. day prepared for both inside and outside instruction in P.E.

Health Education

The GWRSD Elementary Health Program is dedicated to giving each student the knowledge and skills necessary to make healthy choices throughout life. Elementary Health is taught in grades 4, 5, and 6 throughout the district. Health class is graded, included on the students' report cards, and calculated in honor roll. Topics such as nutrition, safety and first aid, growth and development, disease prevention, consumer health, human body systems, and substance use and abuse are taught in an age appropriate, sequential format. Copies of videos and materials used are available through the school office.

Homework

The GWRSD homework policy is outlined [here](#). Homework should be an application or extension of a classroom experience. Students will be assigned homework as warranted by the teacher. It must be planned, organized, purposeful, and should provide feedback to students in a timely manner. Teachers may assign homework to aid in students' educational development and as part of the curriculum.

Library/Media/Technology

The Library/Media Center (LMC) houses books, a varied selection of reference materials, and an extensive audio-visual collection. Students will learn to use their chromebooks within the classroom and media center. The LMC offers access and support to the Internet for reference work, as well as instruction using the computer and other technology tools. Parents and students are asked to sign the district's Acceptable Use Policy each year acknowledging that they understand the advantages and pitfalls of such access.

NDS Programs & Activities

Band

The instrumental program at New Durham School begins in the 4th grade. Students participate in classroom and recorder ensembles in the music classroom. Students are then given an opportunity to select a band instrument in March. Introductory instrumental lessons are given to 4th grade students in the spring. Students in grades 5 and 6 are offered the opportunity to take group instrumental lessons during the school day on any band instrument. These students will also have one band rehearsal each week. The band will perform in two annual concerts: the holiday concert in December and the spring concert in June as well as the Memorial Day Program in May.

Chorus

Students in grades 4-6 are welcome to join the Chorus. Practice times are during the school day on Thursday from 2:30-3:10 PM. The chorus performs in a show in December and May as well as other events throughout the school year.

Student Support Center (SSC)

The SSC works in conjunction with the Guidance Department to provide support and intervention to students struggling to self-regulate their emotional status. This means, they are struggling to manage an emotion or conflict and return to a calm and socially acceptable emotional status. It can also serve as a place where students can cool down, or have some quiet until they are ready to communicate about a problem or conflict.

In times of conflict, when a student has violated one of the rules of behavior, as

outlined in the Handbook, which are set forth by the GWRSD, the SSC collects information by listening to the students involved and then takes that information to the Principal or classroom teacher, who will determine what, if any, consequences are appropriate.

The SSC is also used for conflict resolution between peers. Students who are involved in a conflict are sent to the SSC when they can't settle the conflict themselves. In those times they experience a judgement free zone where they receive assistance in constructive communication and understanding.

Students can be referred to the SSC by a staff member or can self-refer.

Winter Sports Program

Students at New Durham School in grades 3-6 have an opportunity to enroll in an outdoor winter program for four Thursday afternoons in January to enrich their formal classroom education. The downhill skiers and snowboarders travel to a local mountain (Gunstock in Gilford, NH). The skaters travel to the Rochester Ice Arena for indoor skating. Snowshoeing may be offered at school based on interest. GWRSD does not contribute any funds to this winter program, so the entire cost, including transportation, must be raised through parent contribution. The cost of the program is reasonable, but if families need assistance, scholarships may be available, and donations are welcome and appreciated.

After School Clubs

The After-School Clubs will offer multiple sessions to students in grades 1-6 throughout the school year. A variety of programs are offered such as a Robotics club, Crafting club, Unicycle or Jump Rope club, Newspaper club, Game club, Lego club and several other choices depending on student interest in the offerings.

Health Services

Illness

If your child has a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea, you need to keep them home and notify the school of the absence. A child may not return to school until they are symptom/fever free for 24 hours without the help of medication. If you are unsure whether your child should attend, contact the school nurse and they will be happy to speak with you.

Medication Policy

Children are not allowed to take medication in school, unless the following medication policy is followed:

In accordance with the State Board of Education and Division of Public Health Regulations: Any pupil, grades Preschool through 6th , who is required to take prescribed medication during the school day, shall be assisted by the school nurse or another member of the school staff, so designated by the building principal, provided that the school has the following on file:

1. A written statement from the prescribing physician, detailing the method of taking the dosage and the time schedule to be observed, and any possible side effects.
2. A written authorization (request) from the Parent/Guardian of the pupil indicating the desire that the school assist the pupil in matters set forth in the physician's statement, accompanied by a "hold harmless" release, signed by a Parent/Guardian. Request forms may be obtained from the schools.
3. The medication must be in a container properly labeled (pharmacy label) with the student's name, physician's name, the date of the original prescription, name and strength of medication and directions for taking by student. The medication should be delivered directly to the school nurse, principal, or teacher by the Parent/Guardian. Do not send any medication to school with your child.
4. Prescribed medication will not be taken during school hours if it is possible to

achieve the medical regiment at home.

5. Non-prescribed medication will not be allowed in school.

6. Students with lactose intolerance need a physician's statement regarding diagnosed lactose intolerance for special snack/lunch arrangements to be made.

7. Screening programs: Screening for vision, hearing and scoliosis (curvature of the spine) may be conducted during the school year at various grade levels. Referral notices will be sent home if screening results indicate that there may be a problem. The second sheet of the referral notice is to be returned to school when completed by a physician or specialist.

Food Service

Hot Lunch/Breakfast Program

Breakfast, hot lunch and milk are available at school every day. The Hot Lunch Program publishes menus monthly which are available on the [GWRSD Food Service page](#). Menus are subject to change. However, this usually happens only when there has been a snow-day or an emergency day. Menus are also sent home with students once a month. You may pay for your child's meals in advance with cash, check or using My School Bucks. GWRSD Food Service site

The cost for breakfast is \$1.50 and the cost for lunch is \$3.75. If students would like to purchase a milk separate from the hot lunch program the milk cost is \$0.40. You may make checks payable to GWRSD Food Service. These prices are subject to change during the school year. Applications for free/reduced meals can be accessed [here](#).

Meal Charge Procedure

Parents are responsible for providing their children with lunch money or to provide a packed lunch from home. Parents are encouraged to put money "on account" for all students in the district.

If you are experiencing financial hardships, the Governor Wentworth Regional School District does participate in the National Free & Reduced Lunch and Breakfast program. You may apply at any point during the year. Applications are available at each school office or on our district website. Not only will this help you, it also has an impact on the amount the district receives from state financial aid and will help reduce taxes. These procedures are intended to outline the parameters of charges for school meals and to set a process for collection of funds owed to the district. Parents/Guardians of students in grades K-6 will be alerted of a low balance once a student's account is overdue by five days.

MySchoolBucks - GWRSD makes paying for school lunches easy! With myschoolbucks, giving your students lunch money could not be easier. The Service is easy-to-use, convenient, private, and secure. Simply go to [this link](#) to enroll and

start using the site to deposit funds into your child's lunch account. Once your account is established, you can check balances and fund the account anytime from your home computer or phone. Your personal and payment card information is protected by the most advanced Internet security. To obtain your child's District ID call the District Food Service Office at 569-2433.

Parent Involvement

ParentSquare

GWRSD uses ParentSquare for most important school communications, including newsletters, classroom updates, permission slips, and weather-related school cancellations/delays. Invitations to join ParentSquare are sent to the contact information kept on file through Infinite Campus. If you have not received an invitation, can't locate it, or need help with your account, please contact the main office so we can help you.

PTO

The NDS Parent-Teacher Organization is a group dedicated to supporting New Durham School, students, and faculty. Meetings are once a month, usually the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30PM. Our first meeting is September 9th.

Volunteering/Chaperoning

We love our volunteers! If you're interested in volunteering at NDS either at the school, for special events, or to chaperone for field trips or winter sports, you'll need to be fingerprinted and approved ahead of time. We have packets for this process in the main office, and we're happy to provide them for you. Please note: the fingerprinting and approval process can take up to six weeks, so it is helpful to start it early in the year. As long as you volunteer at least once a year after that, your approval will stay active. Contact the main office for more information.

Parents Right to Know– Title I Schools

Each year, as required by law, schools that receive Title I funds must notify parents/guardians that they may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teachers. This information will be provided by the school in a timely manner. At a minimum this includes the following:

- whether the teacher meets the NH requirements for the grade level(s) and subject areas taught
- whether the teacher is teaching under emergency status that the Department of Education has temporarily waived his/her certification requirement
- the teacher's degree(s) and any other graduate certifications held by the teacher and the field of discipline of the certification or degree
- whether the child is provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, his/her qualifications

Each Title I school must also provide parents with the following information:

- the level of achievement their child has made on all state assessments
- timely notice if a child has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified

All information provided to parents must be clearly written and provided in a language the parent is able to understand. Please contact your school principal or Erin Daggett, grant writer/project manager, at 603.569.0221 if you have any questions regarding your Right to Know or if you would like to request any information.

Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

ANNUAL NOTICE OF STUDENT EDUCATION RECORDS AND INFORMATION RIGHTS

The federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") provides certain rights to parents and eligible students (18 years of age or older) with respect to the student's education records.

A. Inspection of Records

Parents/eligible students may inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of making a request. Such requests must be submitted to the Superintendent or building principal in writing and must identify the record(s) to be inspected. The Superintendent or building principal will notify the parent/eligible student of the time and place where the record(s) may be inspected in the presence of school staff. Parents/eligible students may obtain copies of education records at a cost of 10 cents per page.

B. Amendment of Records

Parents/eligible students may ask the School District to amend education records they believe are inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's right to privacy. Such requests must be submitted to the Superintendent or building principal in writing, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the Superintendent or building principal decides not to amend the record as requested, the parent/eligible student will be notified of the decision, their right to request a hearing and information about the hearing process.

C. Disclosure of Records

The School District must obtain a parent/eligible student's written consent prior to disclosure of personally identifiable information in education records except in circumstances permitted by law or regulations as summarized below.

1. Directory Information

The School District designates the following student information as directory information that may be made public at its discretion: the student's name, grade, grade level/year of graduation, age, activity participation, school, honors and awards, weight and height for athletic teams at secondary schools, and parent/guardian name. Parents/eligible students who do not want the School District to disclose

directory information must notify the building principal in writing by October 1 or within thirty (30) calendar days of enrollment, whichever is later. This opt-out request will remain in effect until the beginning of the next school year.

2. Military Recruiters/Institutions of Higher Education

Military recruiters and institutions of higher education are entitled to receive the names, addresses and telephone numbers of secondary school students and the School District must comply with any such request, provided that parents have been notified of their right to request that this information not be released without their prior written consent. Parents/eligible students who do not want the School District to disclose this information without their prior written consent must notify the Superintendent in writing by October 1 or within thirty (30) days of enrollment, whichever is later.

3. School Officials with Legitimate Educational Interests

Education records may be disclosed to school officials with a "legitimate educational interest." A school official has a legitimate educational interest if he/she needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibility. School officials include persons employed by the School District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); members of the School District's School Board; persons or companies with whom the School District has contracted to provide specific services (such as attorneys, auditors, medical

consultants, evaluators or therapists); and volunteers who are under the direct control of the School District with regard to education records.

4. Health or Safety Emergencies

In accordance with federal regulations, the School District may disclose education records in a health or safety emergency to any person whose knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals without prior written consent.

5. Other Entities/Individuals

Education records may be disclosed to other entities and individuals as specifically permitted by law. Parents/eligible students may obtain information about other exceptions to the written consent requirement by request to the Superintendent or building principal.

D. Complaints Regarding School District Compliance with FERPA

Parents/eligible students who believe that the School District has not complied with the requirements of FERPA have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education. The office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office

U.S. District of Education

400 Maryland Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20202

See related GWRSD District [policy](#) and [form](#)