

Welcome to Winchester Elementary

Kindergarten Parent Orientation



WINCHESTER
DRAGONS



Meet our Team

Kelly Lindsay, Principal

Sarah MacArthur, KDG Teacher

Tara Fortino, KDG Teacher

Jenny Willerer, KDG Teacher

Anna McPhee, KDG Teacher

Winchester Staff

Additional school staff includes:

- Humanities Teachers
- Special Education Teacher
- Speech and Language Pathologist
- Psychologist
- Multilingual Teacher
- Social Worker

Mission and Vision

Mission:

Learning together, leading forever

Vision:

To educate and inspire a lifelong
joy of learning



Winchester is a Leader in Me Lighthouse School

- Staff trained in 7 Habits of Highly Effective People
- One of 600 Lighthouse Schools in the World (6 in Northville).



Typical Day in Kindergarten!



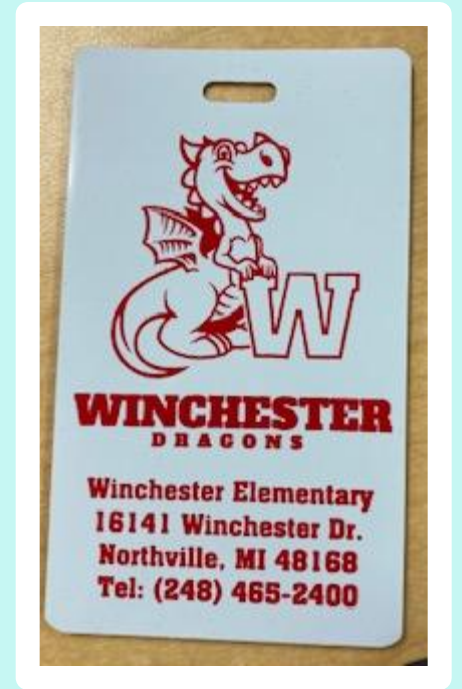
Arrival



- First bell rings at 8:41
 - Late bell rings at 8:46
- Your child can be dropped off in the “red zone” or carpool lane.
 - Before 8:35 students line up in their designated grade level line at the front entrance.
 - Kindergartners line up in a designated location in the lobby.
 - Students are walked down to their classroom

Dismissal

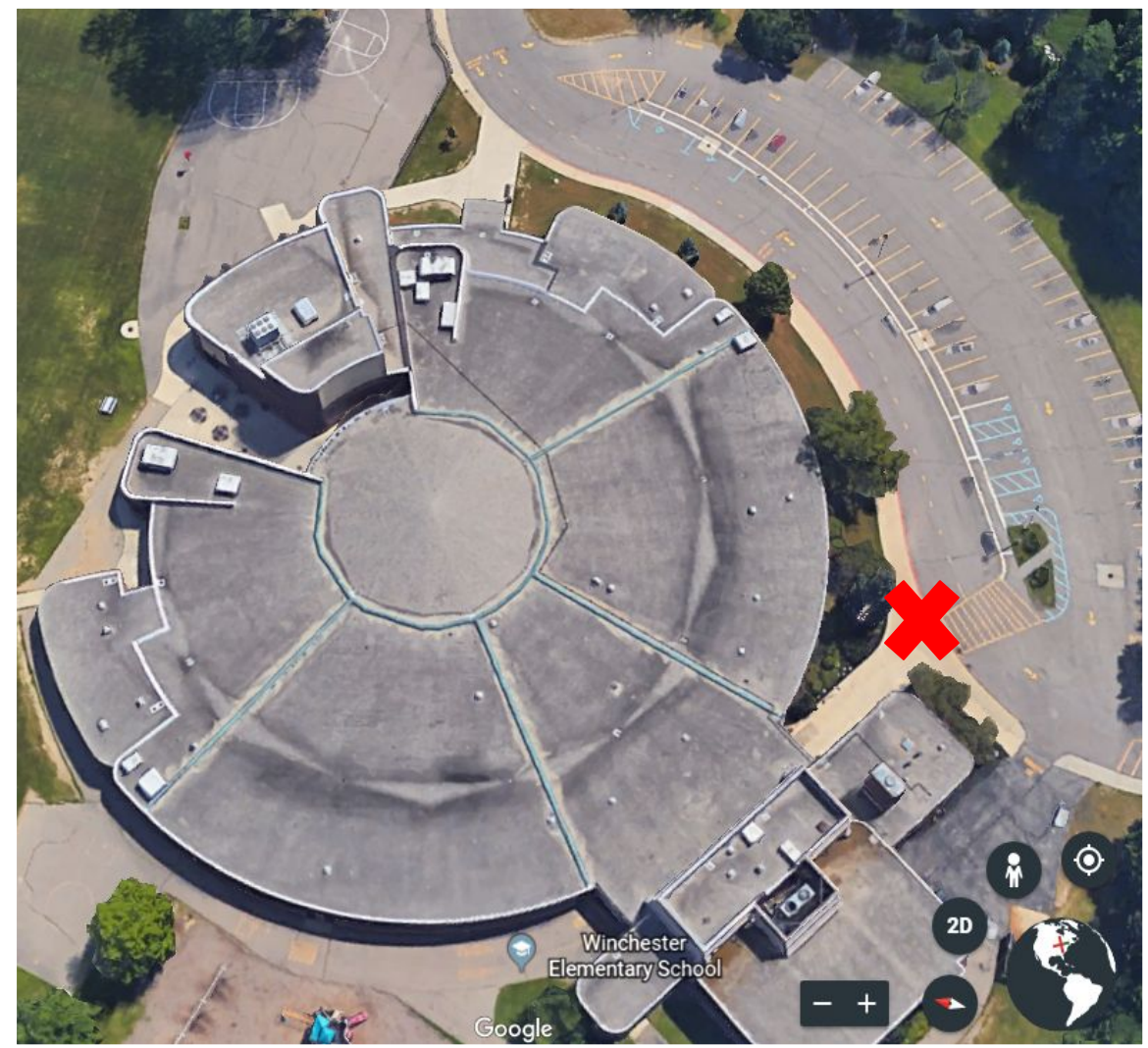
- Kindergarten begins dismissal around 3:40 PM
 - The school day ends at 3:45 PM
- Kids Club students will be picked up by Kids Club Staff
- Bus riders will be walked to their designated spot to wait for their bus
- Students being picked up will be dismissed out of the front doors by their teacher.



Arrival



Dismissal



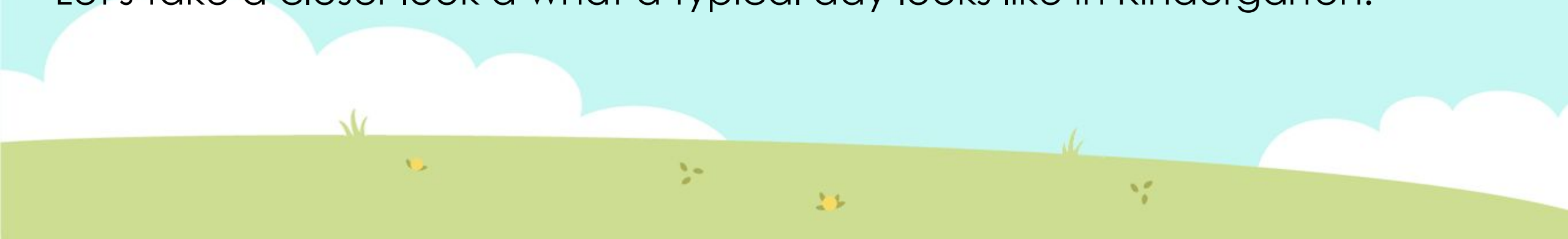
Academics in Kindergarten

Kindergarten is both challenging and developmentally appropriate.

A Kindergarten day consists of reading, writing, mathematics, social studies, science, phonics, centers/small groups and humanities.

We are committed to preparing students for a successful transition to 1st grade and beyond.

Let's take a closer look at what a typical day looks like in Kindergarten!



A Sample Kindergarten Day

- Morning Meeting/Calendar
- Phonics
- Snack and brain break
- Reading
- Small Groups/Centers
- Writing
- Rest and Read
- Math
- Science/Social Studies
- Play time
- PE, Music, Art, Library or STEAM
 - (times vary depending on classroom/the day of the week)

Lunch/Recess

Your child will have lunch/recess every day!

- Your child will have a choice to pack their lunch or order lunch at school. Lunch orders are due online by 7:00 am daily. You can preorder a few weeks at a time.



<https://northvilleschools.nutrislice.com/menu/winchester-elementary-school>

Preparing for Kindergarten!



School Supplies

This year the PTA is working with School Tool Box if you are interested in purchasing school supplies online. Please use the following link: ([Click on Find Boxes now and enter Winchester Elementary, Kindergarten](#))

If there are any questions please contact:
Kristy Kowalec at: gkrikow@gmail.com



**Please note that the supply lists are simply suggestions of helpful items and are strictly voluntary, as the Northville Public Schools provide the necessary supplies and materials for your child's successful school experience.*

School Supplies

- 1 large backpack that can hold a lunchbox, binder, papers, and change of clothes
- A full set of extra clothes (socks, underwear, pants, and shirt in a ziploc bag in your child's backpack)
- 1 spill proof water bottle (labeled with child's name)
- 1 small blanket in a reusable shopping bag for rest and read
- A lunch box with a zipper and handle for lunches from home



[Additional suggested classroom supplies linked here](#)

How Can I Help My Child Prepare for Kindergarten?

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Alphabet

	Familiar with letters
	Identifies letters in their name

Writing

	Writes some letters and numbers
	Writes their name

Fine Motor

	Grasps pencil correctly
	Uses proper grip for scissors
	Uses glue neatly
	Draws basic shapes to create a picture
	Colors in the lines
	Open/close snack containers

Reading

	Listens to read aloud stories
	Understands left to right movement in reading
	Identifies the front and back of a book
	Holds book and turns pages correctly
	Familiar with nursery rhymes

Math

	Counts to 20
	Accurately counts objects to 10
	Recognizes written numerals 0-10
	Identifies 4 shapes: circle, square, triangle and rectangle
	Understands directional concepts (up/down, right/left)

How Can I Help My Child Prepare for Kindergarten?

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Verbal Skills

	Uses appropriate voice level when speaking
	Can express and identify feelings

Health

	Uses bathroom independently
	Washes hands correctly
	Dresses for the weather
	Follows proper bathroom procedures
	Able to put shoes and coats on independently (zips, snaps)

Listening Skills

	Listens for directions attentively
	Follows 2 step directions
	Waits turn to speak

Gross Motor Skills

	Sitting appropriately
	Walk calmly from one place to another
	Use playground equipment safely

Social Skills

	Plays well with others
	Takes turn and shares
	Cleans up after playing
	Considerate of other people's feelings
	Respects items belonging to others
	Listens when others speak
	Uses manners
	Follows rules and routines
	Expresses self with words, rather than acting out



NORTHVILLE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Partnering for Digital Citizenship

A Guide for K–5 Parents



Jen Lawson

Instructional Technology Integration Coordinator



The Digital World Our Kids Live In

Today's children are **digital natives** — they've grown up swiping, tapping, and streaming. Technology shapes how they learn, play, and connect. But with that access comes responsibility.

K-5

Every Grade Level

Digital skills are introduced as early as Kindergarten — and parents are a critical part of the equation.

3

Core Pillars

Empathy, respect, and safety — not just computer skills.



The Double-Edged Sword of Technology



✓ The Benefits

- Educational apps and creative tools
- Connecting with family near and far
- Access to learning resources anywhere

⚠ The Risks

- Unfiltered access to inappropriate content
- Cyber bullying and peer pressure
- Privacy and data concerns



The Dangers of Group Chats for Young Children

Group chats may seem harmless, but for elementary-aged children they present serious and often invisible risks.

Misinformation & Scams

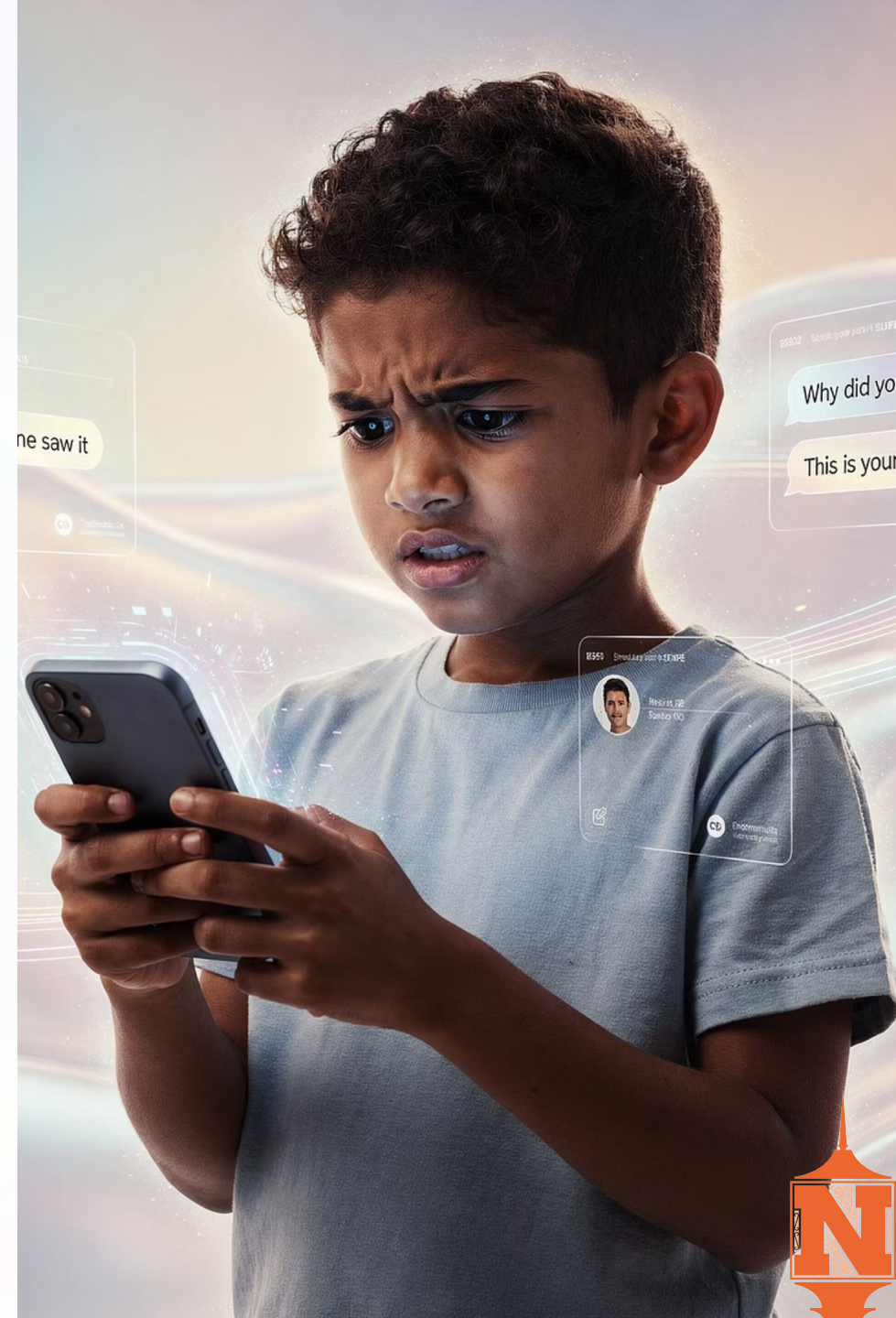
Young children can't yet detect fake news or phishing attempts. Group chats spread unverified content rapidly.

Cyberbullying

Group chats can become breeding grounds for exclusion, rumors, and bullying — all without an adult ever seeing it.

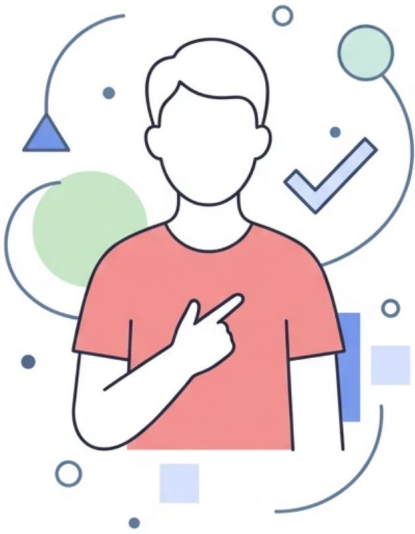
Oversharing

Kids don't yet understand that digital messages are permanent. They may share addresses, phone numbers, or photos without thinking.

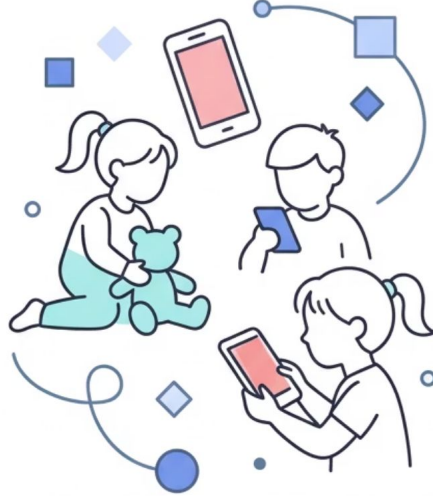


Unfiltered Access: What Parents Need to Know

**AGE
REQUIREMENT
13+**



**REALITY:
KIDS 8-12**



The Gap Between Policy and Reality

- ★ Most social media platforms require users to be **at least 13 years old** — yet millions of primary school children use them daily. (Source: *Internet Matters*)
- ★ Livestreams and games designed for older audiences can expose children to adult language, violence, and inappropriate behavior in real time.

What you can do: Enable parental controls on devices and broadband routers to filter websites, set time limits, and block age-inappropriate apps.





Navigating the Digital Divide

The same device can be a doorway to discovery — or a source of distress. **What makes the difference?**
Guidance, boundaries, and open conversation.



Building Digital Citizenship in Young Learners

GRADES K-2

For our youngest students, digital citizenship starts with simple, concrete concepts they can connect to real-life feelings and relationships.



Focus on

Empathy

Remember: "Real people with real feelings are behind every screen."

Saying something mean online is the same as saying it to someone's face."



Privacy Basics

Teach the rule: "**Names, numbers, and addresses stay with trusted grown-ups.**" Keep it simple and repeat it often.



Kindness First

Encourage "digital compliments" and positive online interactions. Model what it looks like to be kind in every message.



Empowering Digital Citizens

GRADES 3–5

As children grow, so does their digital independence. These grades are the perfect time to build **critical thinking, accountability, and self-advocacy** skills online.



Critical Thinking

Teach them to question what they see. Use kid-friendly fact-checking tools and ask: *"How do we know this is true?"*



Digital Footprint

Online actions have lasting consequences. Help them understand: once something is posted, it can be permanent.



Reporting & Seeking Help

Empower them to tell a trusted adult if they see something scary or confusing — no questions, no judgment. (*A Courageous Voice*)



Strong Passwords

Help them create unique, complex passwords and explain why protecting personal accounts matters.





Your Role as a Digital Partner

Parents are the most powerful influence in a child's digital life. Here's how to make the most of that role:

→ **Start Conversations Early**

Keep the tone **open and curious, not fearful**. Ask what they're playing, watching, and talking about online. (*Fuzzigram*)

→ **Set Clear Expectations**

Use a **family tech planner** to agree on screen time limits, device-free zones, and bedtime rules. (*A Courageous Voice*)

→ **Model Good Behavior**

Your own digital habits are their blueprint. Put your phone away at dinner. Show them what healthy tech use looks like.

→ **Utilize Trusted Resources**

Explore **Common Sense Media** (commonsensemedia.org) for age based app ratings, screen time guidance, and family conversation starters.



Together, We Can Build a Safer Digital Future

Digital citizenship is a **shared responsibility** between home and school. When we work together, we give our children the tools to navigate the digital world safely, respectfully, and responsibly.



At School

We teach digital citizenship, internet safety, and responsible technology use.



At Home

You reinforce the lessons with open conversations, clear boundaries, and consistent modeling.



Together

Our children become confident, kind, and safe digital citizens — ready for the world ahead.



Resources for Families



Provides insights and data regarding the risks children face online, such as the dangers of group chats and the gap between social media age policies and actual usage.



A suggested resource for parents to use when starting early conversations with children about what they are watching, playing, and discussing online.



Offers tools like family tech planners to help set clear expectations for device-free zones and screen time limits. This resource also emphasizes empowering children to seek help from a trusted adult if they encounter confusing or scary content online.



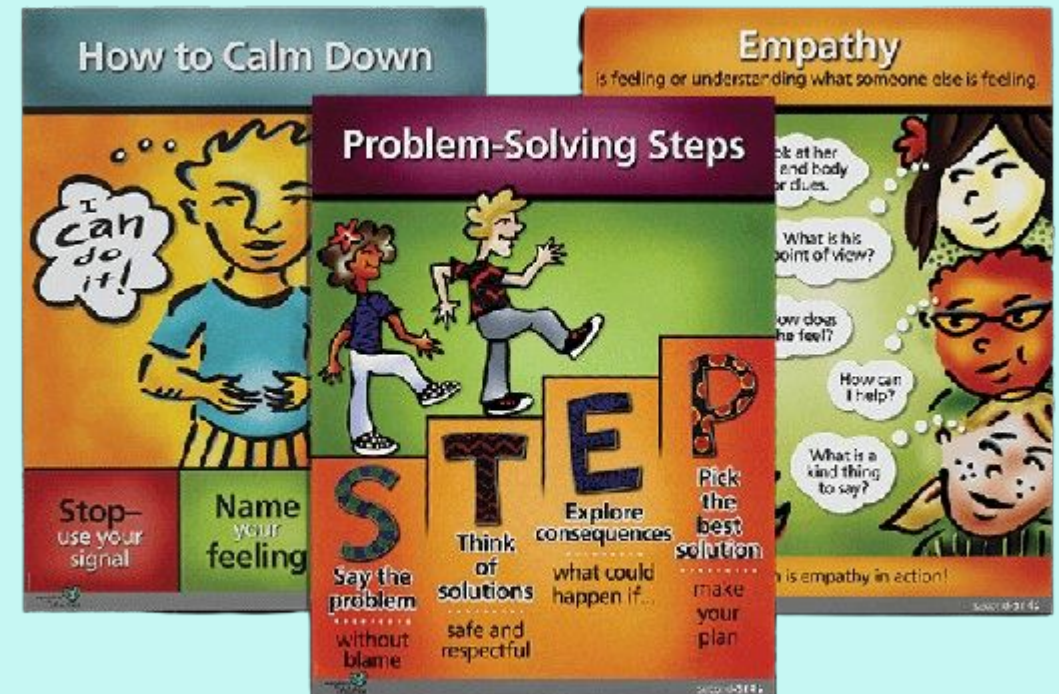
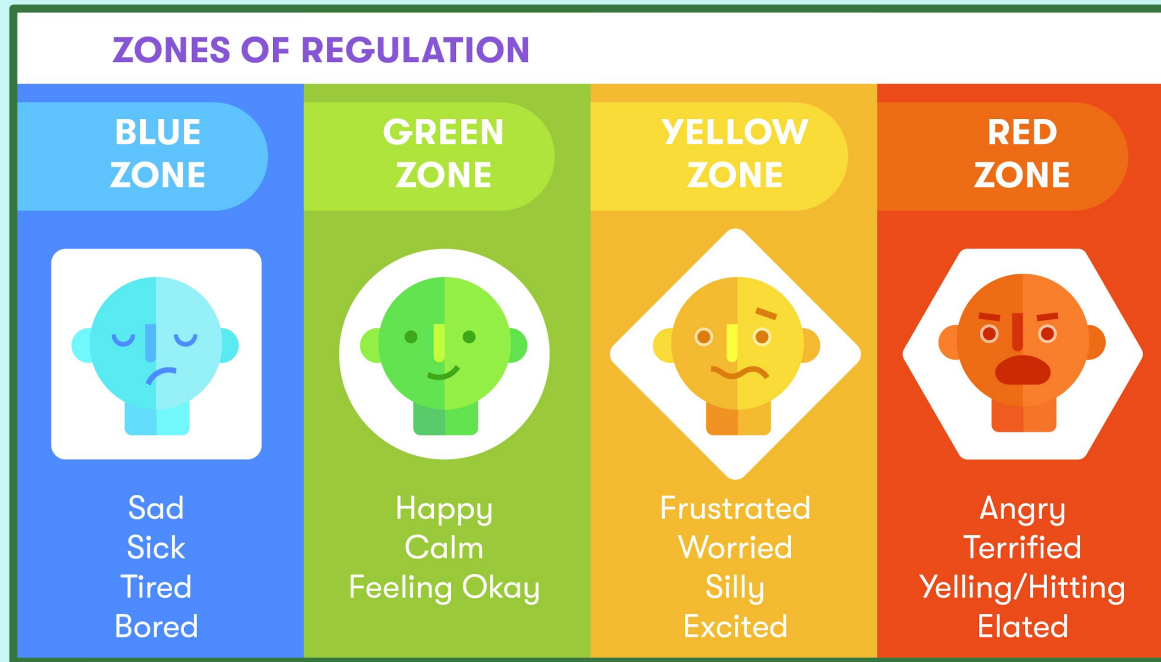
A trusted resource for age-based app ratings, guidance on screen time, and starters for family conversations.



This [document](#) is a categorized reading list providing diverse fiction and non-fiction resources to help children of all ages, from toddlers to teens, understand artificial intelligence concepts, practice digital citizenship, and navigate the online world safely.



School-wide Self-Regulation and Problem Solving Programs





Additional information about Winchester Elementary School
can be found on our school website:

winchester.northvilleschools.org

Community Groups in Parent Square



- Parent Square is an email/text message subscription service, which will allow you to receive our newsletters, school closing info, transportation delays, and sign permission slips.
- Use the QR code to sign up today!



How Can I Get Involved?



Dad's Club

Dad's Club President:
John Rigdon

Volunteer Opportunities

- Classrooms
- Media Center
- Work Room
- PTA Events
- Dad's Club Events



PTA

PTA President:
Danielle Berwick

Things to Know (FAQs)

- **Your child's teacher will send a Parent Packet before the school starts including arrival/dismissal procedures, lunch/snack protocols, any allergies and other important information!**
- Medical Conditions - if you need a medical plan, please contact the office
- Class placement and bus information will be available in MiStar the week before school starts
- First day of school is tentatively scheduled for August 31st
- A typical school day starts at 8:41 am and ends at 3:45 pm
- Watch for Open House information to come!

Round Up Information

Who: Incoming Kindergarten students

Where: Winchester Elementary School

When: May 8th

Why: To get your child familiar with Winchester and a Kindergarten classroom

Your child does not need to bring anything!
We will provide everything they need. :)

Classroom Visits

Thank you for coming tonight!

You are welcome to go and visit the Kindergarten classrooms and ask any specific questions you have!

