



Deer Hill School

Family Handbook

2026-2027



208 Sohier St.
Cohasset, MA 02025
781-383-6115
www.cohassetk12.org

The Cohasset Public Schools policy of nondiscrimination shall apply to the District's students, staff, and families, and shall extend to the District's dealings with the general public and those with whom it does business, in accordance with applicable law. No individual shall be discriminated against or harassed in admission, employment, or access to educational opportunities, courses of study, programs, activities, or facilities of the Cohasset Public Schools on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, immigration status, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, veteran status, U.S. uniformed military service member status, disability, age (student age eligibility requirements excepted), homelessness, marital or parental status, pregnancy or pregnancy related condition, or any status or characteristic protected under applicable federal, state or local law. Cohasset Public Schools is an equal opportunity employer. Any complaint of a violation of the District's nondiscrimination policy should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools or to the relevant District Officer or Coordinator (e.g., Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, ADA, Section 504, McKinney-Vento).

Table of Contents

Letter to Families	4
Cohasset Public Schools Guiding School Committee Policies	5
Notice of Equal Opportunity	5
Notice of Non-Discrimination	6
Abbreviated Reference to the Legislation and Specific Criteria of Civil Rights Laws, and School and District Coordinator Information	6
Cohasset Public Schools Mission, Vision, Core Values, & Vision of a Graduate	8
District Calendar	9
Arrival and Dismissal	9
Arrival	9
Dismissal	9
School Attendance	10
Absences	10
Tardies and Early Dismissals	11
Family Vacations	11
Media Release	11
Technology Network Access & Acceptable Use Policy	11
Dress Code	12
Lockers	12
Personal Items at School	12
Electronic Devices	12
Toys, Fidgets, & Gum	13
Water Bottles	13
Drop-Off Procedures for Student Items	13
Lost and Found	13
Communication	14
Curriculum	14
Homework	14
Guiding principles for homework timing and load:	15
Assessment & Progress Reports	15
Assessment	15
Early Literacy Screening	15
Progress Reports	16
Field Trips	16
School Visitors, Volunteers, and Chaperones	16
Community Involvement Organizations	16
PSO: Parent-School Organization	17
Cohasset Education Foundation (CEF)	17

Deer Hill School Council	17
Classroom Snacks	17
Breakfast and Lunch Program	18
Health Services	18
Physical Examinations	18
School Screenings	18
Dispensing of Medication	18
Allergies	19
Excusal from Physical Education/Modified Physical Activities	19
Safety Plan	19
School Culture	19
Code of Conduct	21
Expectations for Behavior	21
Inappropriate Behaviors	23
Possible Consequences	23
Bullying Policy	24
Supervision of Athletic and other Extra-Curricular Programs	24

Letter to Families

Dear Deer Hill Families,

Whether your children are new or returning to the Deer Hill School, the purpose of this handbook is to provide families with important information to ensure that your child's school year is a positive, enriching experience.

At Deer Hill School, we follow the Skipper Creed:

- Be Safe
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible

With these tenets in mind please review this handbook so that you are familiar with expectations for our students. It is our belief that an effective partnership between home and school is essential to student success. Coupled with ongoing two-way communication, it is our hope that this handbook will provide you with a glimpse into our days at the Deer Hill School.

Please feel free to contact the office if you have any questions or concerns. Welcome to our school!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alexandra L. Sullivan".

Alexandra L. Sullivan
Principal

alsullivan@cohassetk12.org

Cohasset Public Schools Guiding School Committee Policies

Guiding policies for the Cohasset Public Schools are set by the School Committee and can be accessed in the School Committee [Policy Manual](#) on the district website.

Notice of Equal Opportunity

The Cohasset Public Schools reaffirms that they do not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or sexual orientation in admission to, access to treatment in or employment in its programs or activities. Consistent with M.G.L. Chapter 76, Section 5, the Cohasset School District also affirms the commitment to maintain a school and work environment free of harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age disability or sexual orientation. Any harassment based on sex, race, national origin, religion, age, disability or sexual orientation will not be tolerated and will be punishable to the full extent of the law.

If you should have any questions about the district's policy, please feel free to contact the Director of Student Services. She has been designated to respond to your inquiries and to be the district's Equal Opportunity, Title IX, Section 504, and Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Coordinator. The Director of Student Services can be reached at (781) 383-6104.

If you should have a complaint or concern that there has been discrimination, you may also utilize the following procedure:

1. Report the violations to any staff member in the Cohasset Public Schools. He/she will notify the building Principal or grievance coordinator. The building Principal will meet with you and other persons who might have information about the issue promptly and will attempt to resolve the issue. Any additional investigation will be commenced by the school district investigators in each area, within a reasonable period of time. The building principal will issue their decision in writing to you within ten (10) days of the conclusion of the investigation.
2. If the complaint is not resolved, it can then be appealed to the district's Equal Opportunity, Title IX, Section 504, ADA Coordinator. This appeal must be in writing, describe the circumstances, and the relief you seek. This appeal should be taken within one week after receipt of the Principal's decision.
3. The Equal Opportunity, Title IX, Section 504, ADA Coordinator will meet with you within a reasonable time. Following a review of the materials presented to the Principal and any additional investigation which will be conducted promptly, the Coordinator will make a final determination on whether there has been a violation of the district's policy within ten (10) days after the conclusion of any additional investigation. If there has been a violation, the Coordinator will indicate the steps to be taken to correct it.

Inquiries concerning the application of nondiscrimination policies may also be referred to the Superintendent of Schools or the Regional Director, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, J.W. McCormack POICH, Room 222, Boston, MA 02109-4557.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

The Cohasset Public Schools admits the students of either sex and of any race, color, religion and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, courses and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. Further, the Cohasset Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin or disability in the administration of its educational policies and programs.

Inquiries concerning the application of this policy prescribed by TITLE IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Chapter 622 of the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts may be directed to: Director of Student Services, Michael Stapleton or Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Leslie Scollins.

Inquiries concerning the application of nondiscrimination policies may also be referred to: Regional Director, Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education J. W. McCormack POICH - Room 222 - Boston, MA 02109-4557

Abbreviated Reference to the Legislation and Specific Criteria of Civil Rights Laws, and School and District Coordinator Information

Law	Coordinator
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits based on race, color and national origin.	Mr. Micheal Stapleton Director of Student Services 781-383-6104
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 – prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits in educational programs based on sex.	Dr. Beth Wilcox Assistant Superintendent 781-383-4210
Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 – prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits on the basis of disability in the areas of employment.	Mr. Micheal Stapleton Director of Student Services 781-383-6104
Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 – prohibits discrimination,	Mr. Micheal Stapleton Director of Student Services

exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits on the basis of disability in the areas of educational programming and activities.	781-383-6104
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1993 – prohibits discrimination, exclusion from participation, and denial of benefits based on disability.	District – Mr. Michael Stapleton 781-383-6104 Osgood – Mr. David Vinton 781-383-6117 Deer Hill – Ms. Robyn Costa 781-383-6115 Middle School – Dr. Kathryn Salas 781-383-6100 High School – Ms. Kate Darling 781-383-6100
Massachusetts General Laws, Ch. 76, S.5 – prohibits discrimination in all public schools on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion and sexual orientation.	Mr. Micheal Stapleton Director of Student Services 781-383-6104
Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 – designed to help disadvantaged children meet challenging content and student performance standards.	Dr. Beth Wilcox Assistant Superintendent 781-383-4210
603 CMR 4600 – governs the use of physical restraint on students in publicly funded schools.	Mr. Micheal Stapleton Director of Student Services 781-383-6104
McKinley-Vento Act - Homeless	Mr. Micheal Stapleton Director of Student Services 781-383-6104

Cohasset Public School policy, AC, “Nondiscrimination” states, “Individuals who have a complaint or feel they have been discriminated against because of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation and disability, should register their complaint with the Title IX compliance officer.” The above references laws and coordinators indicate whom individuals should contact in the event they feel they have been victims of discrimination.

If any individual associated with the Cohasset Public Schools feels discriminated on the basis of race or national origin (Title VI), gender (Title IX) or disability (Section 504), s/he may file a complaint with the appropriate school or district coordinator.

Grievance Decision APPEALS: Mrs. Sarah Shannon, Superintendent, 781-383-6111

Cohasset Public Schools Mission, Vision, Core Values, & Vision of a Graduate

Cohasset Public Schools Mission

We place students first. Together, we inspire character, purposeful growth, and a commitment to authentic scholarship for the fulfillment of our collective potential.

Cohasset Public Schools Motto

Learn. Grow. Inspire.
TOGETHER

Cohasset Public Schools Vision

Students improving communities

Cohasset Public Schools Core Values

- ♦ **I** – Unlock the power of **Individuality**
- ♦ **N** – **Nurture** belonging and empathy
- ♦ **S** – Create authentic learning experiences to drive academic **Success**
- ♦ **P** – **Partner** with students in learning
- ♦ **I** – Inspire **Innovation** by cultivating curiosity
- ♦ **R** – Build **Resilience** through perseverance
- ♦ **E** – Ensure all members of our CPS community are actively **Engaged**

Cohasset Public Schools Vision of a Graduate



District Calendar

The district calendar can be accessed and downloaded by clicking [here](#).

Arrival and Dismissal

Start Time: 9:05 am

Dismissal: 3:25 pm

Early Release: 1:15 pm (lunch is served)

Half Day: 12:15 pm (no lunch is served)

Arrival

Doors open at 9:05 each morning. No supervision is provided before this time. Students are not permitted in the building before 9:05 unless they have a scheduled meeting, enrichment session, or event. During arrival, car drop offs must occur in the back loop. Students may not be dropped off in the front parking lot or along the road to Osgood. All students who arrive after 9:10 are tardy and must check in at the office for a late slip before going to class.

Dismissal

Notes: Students who are being picked up by an alternate person by car (i.e., for a playdate) must bring a note to school. Students who have a change in plans (i.e., a typical bus rider who is walking home or getting picked up by a parent) do not need to bring a note. However, if an unexpected change of plans occurs during the school day, please call the office to communicate that change. While you are welcome to notify the classroom teacher, calling the office is important so that we can ensure the student and proper staff are notified. Teachers don't always have time to check email during the school day.

Bus Riders: Buses will unload and load in the front of the school. Please note that all bus riders are required to obtain a bus pass from the Central Office. Students may only ride the bus(es) to which they are assigned and must get off at their stop; exceptions will only be made in case of emergency and must be pre-arranged by calling the Deer Hill office.

Car Pick Ups: Students being picked up by car must be dismissed through the back doors by the gymnasium. Students may not enter a car that is parked or idling in the front parking lot or along the road to Osgood. Drivers will enter the back parking lot and create an outer line in the right lane. Once that line reaches the driveway, a second line should form in the left lane from the start of the curve to the end of the parking area, making sure to not obstruct cars exiting the driveway. Once pickup begins, cars from the left line will "zipper" into the right line in an every other pattern. Students will be dismissed by supervising staff as cars pull forward. Please see [this letter](#) that includes additional details about this process.

Walkers & Bike Riders: Walkers and bike riders will be dismissed through the front doors of the school after buses have departed. All bike riders must have a helmet and must walk their bikes on the sidewalk from the cafeteria down to Sohier Street. Bike riders on the sidewalk toward the Osgood School must pass walkers safely or walk their bikes to give right of way to foot traffic. They may also cut across the Deer Hill field toward Osgood.

School Attendance

Absence Line: 781-383-6115 (press 1 at the prompt)

Absences

Regular attendance and promptness are essential to a student's academic career and social development. Therefore, each student is expected to attend school daily unless there are serious reasons to the contrary. The classroom experience cannot be replicated, and we believe that students being present and on time each day is essential to school success. Daily attendance is the responsibility of the student and the parent/guardian, together with the best efforts of teachers and administrators. A maximum cooperative effort from all will result in a positive academic experience for the student.

In accordance with [Chapter 76 of Massachusetts General Law](#), the Cohasset Public Schools is required to notify the parent/guardian of a student who has reached five (5) unexcused absences in a school year. Parents/guardians will be notified by letter when five (5), ten (10), and fifteen (15) or more unexcused absences have been reached.

In the event that a student meets or exceeds fifteen (15) unexcused absences, a parent/guardian is required to meet with an administrator to discuss the child's attendance issues.

Absences will be excused under the following circumstances:

- After a medical appointment documented with a note from the medical office
- Illness or quarantine with a note from the appropriate medical office
- Observance of a religious holiday
- Bereavement or serious illness in family
- Court appearance

In instances of chronic or irregular absence reportedly due to illness, the school administration may request a physician's statement certifying such absences to be justified. Please reference the School Committee [Policy Manual](#) for more detail on absences.

Procedure: Please call the absent line before 9:05 am in the event that your child will be absent or tardy. Your cooperation is appreciated. If your child is absent and it has not been reported, you will receive an automated courtesy communication via email from the school asking you to

call for confirmation of the absence. This procedure promotes student safety by ensuring that we have accounted for all students.

Tardies and Early Dismissals

A tardy is an arrival to school after 9:10 am. An early dismissal is a departure prior to 3:25 pm. For the purposes of school attendance records, a student must arrive at school before 12:15 pm to be considered “present.” A student who begins the school day at 9:05 am must remain in school at least until 12:15 pm in order to be considered “present.” Refer to MGL Chapter 72, section 8: “A pupil who is not present during at least half of a session shall be marked and counted as absent for that session.” Tardies and early dismissals will be excused under the following circumstances:

- After a medical appointment documented with a note from the medical office
- Illness or quarantine with a note from the appropriate medical office
- Observance of a religious holiday
- Bereavement or serious illness in family
- Court appearance

Procedure: All students who arrive after 9:10 must check in at the office for a late slip before going to class. For dismissals, please come to the front office to sign out your student.

Family Vacations

Deer Hill School considers that its first responsibility to students is to provide them with an education and that attendance in school is the responsibility of the family. In that regard, the school discourages absences due to family vacations and these absences will not constitute excused absences. If an absence from school is due to a family vacation, teachers will not be expected to provide school work in preparation for the absence. Students may be provided with make-up work upon their return as deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher. Extended absences due to travel may result in unenrollment from school.

Media Release

Many school-related activities are photographed for newspapers, our website, or social media. They may also be videotaped for public broadcasting. In order to protect your child’s right to privacy, please carefully review the Parent/Guardian Permissions for Use of Student’s Photograph, Likeness, and/or Voice that can be found on the Handbook Acknowledgement Form that is published in Aspen for your review at the start of each school year.

Technology Network Access & Acceptable Use Policy

Deer Hill students utilize and integrate technology into many aspects of their school day and are expected to demonstrate digital citizenship. There are three key features of our acceptable use policy for technology: we use technology as intended, we do not conduct inappropriate

searches, and we do not use devices from home at school. Students are reminded of the Skipper Creed and their responsibility to act appropriately when using technology. More details can be found in the School Committee [Policy Manual](#) on the district website. **CPS AI Guidelines coming soon.**

Dress Code

Dress code policy is determined by the Cohasset School Committee. Please reference the School Committee [Policy Manual](#) for more detail. Deer Hill recommends appropriate shoes and clothing for physical education classes, recess activities, and weather.

Lockers

The school district has the responsibility to create a climate within the school that assures the safety and welfare of all persons. Lockers belong to the school district but may be used by the students. Therefore, the school insists that lockers be properly cared for and not used for storage of illegal items. Lockers are subject to reasonable searches by District administration. Students will be charged for any damage done to their lockers, including marker graffiti. Disciplinary action will be taken against those who damage lockers. Students are responsible for the contents of any locker assigned to them. To help ensure safety, security, and cleanliness, a student should:

1. Never share a locker
2. Never leave money or expensive valuables in the locker
3. Keep the locker neat and clean

The right of inspection of students' school lockers is inherent in the authority granted School Committees and administrators. This authority may be exercised as needed in the interest of safeguarding children, their own and school property. Please reference the School Committee [Policy Manual](#) for more detail.

Personal Items at School

Electronic Devices

Deer Hill strongly discourages students from bringing electronic devices including, but not limited to, cell phones, tablets, and wearable technology devices (i.e., Apple watches) that text/call/connect to the internet to school. We are not responsible for loss or damage to these items, and they **MUST** remain in students' backpacks/lockers for the duration of the school day. Students may not access or use these devices during the school day or on field trips. Any communication between students and their families must be placed via the classroom or office phone. Additionally, this "away for the day" policy extends to field trips and school events in which Deer Hill students are participating such as the All Schools Band and Chorus concerts.

Toys, Fidgets, & Gum

Deer Hill also strongly discourages students from bringing toys (including trading cards) and fidgets to school. We are not responsible for loss or damage to these items, and they **MUST** remain in students' backpacks/lockers for the duration of the school day, including recess. Because we recognize that fidgets can support specific learning and social emotional objectives, there may be exceptions to this policy, the details of which must be documented in writing between the appropriate staff member and the student's family. Gum is not permitted to be brought from home, and exceptions for specific learning and social emotional objectives must similarly be documented between the appropriate staff member and the student's family.

Water Bottles

Students are welcome to bring a reusable water bottle to school which they may refill at our water bottle stations. Please ensure that reusable bottles are not made of glass as they pose a safety hazard. Additionally, students may only fill their reusable bottles with water; no sports drinks, flavor powders, or other beverages are allowed.

Drop-Off Procedures for Student Items

Deer Hill encourages our students to manage their own materials and be prepared for school each day. Students will not be allowed to call home for forgotten items, and if something is dropped off, we will not call down to classrooms as it's disruptive to learning. This includes instruments, snacks and lunches, homework, snow pants, etc. If you've made a plan with your child to drop off an instrument (ie they bike to school and can't manage their saxophone), please remind your student before they leave the house to come by the front entry at an appropriate time. Thank you for understanding the importance of uninterrupted instructional time. We appreciate your help in minimizing classroom disruptions.

Lost and Found

Articles of clothing, lunch containers, and other items found unattended around the school will be brought to the school office. If unlabeled they will be taken to the school's Lost and Found in the cafeteria, where they are displayed prominently. At various times during the school year students and families are reminded to check the Lost and Found. After advanced notification, articles remaining in the Lost and Found are cleaned and donated to charity.

To avoid the loss of possessions, please label all clothing, lunch containers and any other items you deem appropriate. If something is of significant value, please do not send it to school.

Communication

Communication is a key component to an effective home-school partnership. Families, teachers, and students must communicate efficiently and effectively in order to maximize student learning and provide an educational experience consistent with our mission and vision for Cohasset Public Schools. Forms of communication include conferences, e-mail, phone calls and written notes.

Conferences are offered two times during the school year, in October and March. Parents and guardians are welcome to request an appointment with their child's teacher(s) throughout the school year as necessary.

From time to time parents/guardians may feel that their child's needs are not being met adequately. They should make every reasonable effort to express such concerns to their child's classroom teacher and/or the specific subject/specialist teacher in order to work toward reasonable resolution of the matter before registering said concern with the principal. Should the principal receive a parent/guardian concern prior to this process or through other channels, the principal will defer the matter to the teacher before intervening. If attempts to reach resolution are not successful, the principal will, if asked, mediate the matter.

Curriculum

Deer Hill implements a variety of curricular resources to support learning objectives through a standards-based approach. These standards are articulated by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in the curriculum frameworks. [Current frameworks](#) can be accessed on the DESE website. [Family-friendly guides](#) are also available on the DESE website.

Homework

Homework across grades 3–5 at Deer Hill seeks to reinforce classroom learning, build independence, foster curiosity, and strengthen the home-school connection, all in service of the whole child. Deer Hill believes homework is most valuable when it supports three equally important goals: academic growth, student wellness, and a sense of responsibility to family and community. Consistent, developmentally appropriate assignments that are thoughtfully scaled as students move from grade to grade help children develop the executive functioning and self-advocacy skills they will carry into middle school and beyond. At the same time, we recognize that students thrive when they have time for rest, play, and the activities that bring them joy. Meaningful homework should never come at the expense of those essentials.

Guiding Principles for Homework:

- Homework should be designed for independent completion. If a student cannot do it without significant adult help, it may not be the right task.
- Assignments should be reasonable in length so that families can protect time for dinner, rest, physical activity, and family connection.
- Flexibility in due dates (e.g., assigned Monday, due Friday) honors the reality that schedules vary, teaches planning, and reduces nightly stress.
- Teachers should be informed when work is consistently too hard at home as that is important diagnostic information.
- When a problem is confusing, students should be encouraged to circle it, set it aside, and bring it back to class. This is an advocacy skill, not a shortcut.
- Weekend homework should be infrequent and optional (i.e. to provide additional flexibility within families' schedules); the weekend is when many families invest in community, wellness, and rest.

Approximate Nightly Time Guidelines

Grade	Suggested Time
Grade 3	15–20 minutes (plus 20 minutes of nightly reading)
Grade 4	20–30 minutes (plus 30 minutes of nightly reading)
Grade 5	30–40 minutes (plus 30 minutes of nightly reading)

These are guidelines. If a student is spending significantly more time than suggested, please share that information with the teacher.

Assessment & Progress Reports

Assessment

Students in grades three through five will participate in the statewide assessment system (MCAS) during the spring of each school year. Students may also participate in standardized testing and informal assessments on an annual basis as determined by the Cohasset School Committee and District administration.

Early Literacy Screening

Effective July 1, 2023, each school district shall at least twice per year assess each student's reading ability and progress in literacy skills, from kindergarten through at least third grade, using a valid, developmentally appropriate screening instrument approved by the Department. Consistent with section 2 of chapter 71B of the general laws and the Department's dyslexia and literacy guidelines, if such screenings determine that a student is significantly below relevant benchmarks for age-typical development in specific literacy skills, the school shall determine which actions within the general education program will meet the student's needs, including differentiated or supplementary evidence-based reading instruction and ongoing monitoring of

progress. Within 30 school days of a screening result that is significantly below the relevant benchmarks, the school shall inform the student's parent or guardian of the screening results and the school's response and shall offer them the opportunity for a follow-up discussion ([News Article - Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education](#)). Please see [603 CMR 28.00: Special Education - Education Laws and Regulations \(mass.edu\)](#) for more information.

Progress Reports

Deer Hill School is on a trimester reporting system and issues standards-based progress reports three times during the school year: December, March, and the last day of school. Dates for each term and the dates upon which progress reports are sent home are listed on the district calendar on the CPS website.

Field Trips

Field trips provide an opportunity to extend learning beyond the classroom. Permission slips must be signed by a parent/guardian prior to a field trip. A CORI check must be conducted for all parent chaperones/volunteers who may have direct and unmonitored contact with students while on a field trip as set forth in Mass. Gen. Laws Ch. 71, Section 38R. Permission Slips (also referred to as the Parental Permission, Release and Indemnification Agreement) will be provided by the school in advance of the trip. No student shall be denied participation due to inability to pay for a field trip.

School Visitors, Volunteers, and Chaperones

We encourage families to engage with our school through a variety of opportunities throughout the year, and volunteers have an important role at Deer Hill School. All visitors to Deer Hill must input a valid driver's license or state issued ID to our front office security system and wear a visitor's badge in order to enter Deer Hill School during school hours. For large capacity events, alternate sign-in and security arrangements may be made at the discretion of administration. All volunteers must complete a CORI check prior to working with students in a capacity where they will have direct, unsupervised contact. This includes volunteers who wish to chaperone field trips. While many volunteer opportunities are coordinated through the PSO, classroom teachers may also request occasional assistance and/or volunteers may be coordinated through individual staff members (i.e. librarian) or the school office.

Community Involvement Organizations

Parent and community involvement has many levels. In Cohasset, a number of different opportunities are available, two of which are outlined below:

PSO: Parent-School Organization

Membership in the PSO is open to any parent in Cohasset who has a child attending the public schools. The main goal of the PSO is to facilitate communication among parents, faculty, administration, and staff for the benefit of the children. The PSO also organizes volunteers and actively raises funds throughout the year to support special curriculum enrichment activities and teacher grants for innovative instructional ideas, as well as school-based projects. More information can be found on their website: <http://www.cohassetpsa.com/>

Cohasset Education Foundation (CEF)

Founded in 1992, this group seeks to support the school district by raising private funds for the benefit of special projects the district may be unable to provide through the general budget. They provide generous grant opportunities for school faculty to enhance student learning. More information can be found on their website: <https://cohasseteducation.org/>

Deer Hill School Council

Established by law in June 1993, this Council meets throughout the year and serves to advise the principal on adopting educational goals for the school, identifying the educational needs of students, reviewing the school budget, and formulating a school improvement plan. Members of the council include the principal, teachers or other staff members, parents/guardians elected at-large, and selected members of the community.

Classroom Snacks

Students are asked to bring a snack from home. These snacks must be peanut/tree nut free and from the approved list pictured here. Individual classrooms may have additional restrictions due to student needs in a given year. Please contact our school nurse if you have questions about appropriate choices.

COHASSET SAFE SNACKS



Breakfast and Lunch Program

Breakfast and lunch are available to all students free of charge. The district website includes a section called [Nutrition and Lunch Program](#) for information about Food Services, including menus.

Health Services

Please reference our Wellness Policy which can be accessed in Section A of the School Committee [Policy Manual](#) for more detail around our Health and Wellness policies.

Deer Hill has two registered nurses on staff, Catherine Bulman and Anne Kearney, who share responsibilities on different days of the week. Parents should feel comfortable in communicating with the school nurses regarding any health-related matters via email at cbulman@cohassetk12.org and akearney@cohassetk12.org or phone 781-383-6115, option 2.

Physical Examinations

Physical examinations from your family physician are required in Grades K, 1, 4, 7, and 10. They are also required for any school year during which your child plays Middle/High School sports.

School Screenings

Grades 3,4,5: Eye Exam
Grade 3: Hearing Screening
Grades 4: Height and Weight
Grade 5: Scoliosis Screening

Any family choosing to opt out of school screenings may send a written request to the school nurse.

Dispensing of Medication

Any medication (prescription or over-the counter) administered to students during school hours requires a completed parental permission form. Forms are available in the nurse's office or from the district website. The medication must be delivered by a parent/guardian to the nurse's office in a properly labeled prescription bottle or in the manufacturer's labeled container. Students are not allowed to transport medication to or from school. Cough drops are considered medication. The first dose of any medication should be given at home for observation of an allergic reaction. A non-prescription medication may be given only for the condition indicated on the permission slip.

Allergies

The health office should be made aware of all allergies in writing at the beginning of each school year. Any students with a prescription for epinephrine should have a current epipen autoinjector supplied by the family available in the health office for their life-threatening allergy. Please access our district [Life Threatening Allergy Protocol](#) for more information.

Excusal from Physical Education/Modified Physical Activities

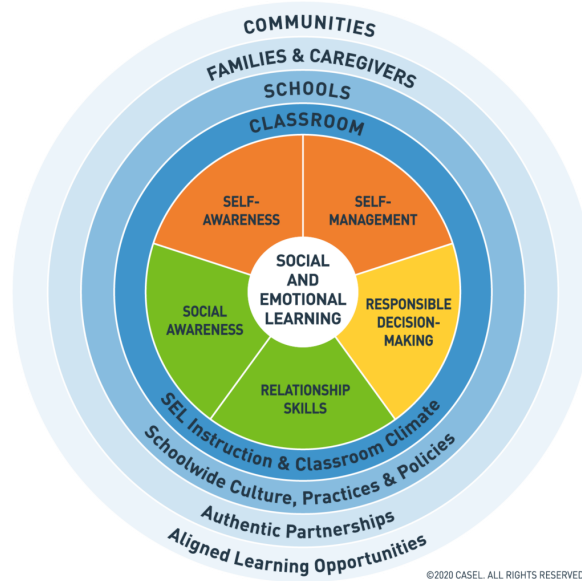
If a student needs to be excused from physical education or engage in modified physical activities, a physician's note should be submitted to the health office indicating the extent of the injury and the duration of the limitation along with any other restrictions on student participation. A separate physician's note is also required for student'

Safety Plan

The staff and administration at Deer Hill School are prepared for a variety of emergencies that may arise in the course of a school day. Selected staff members and the principal form the "Crisis Team" and are trained to respond quickly to an emergency according to protocol set forth by the Cohasset Public Schools Emergency Management Plan. All Deer Hill teachers and staff members are familiar with the emergency plan protocol. From time to time we will enact practice drills (fire, lockdown, evacuation, etc.) in order to keep procedures fresh in our minds and to help students understand their role in the event of an emergency. The principal will notify parents and guardians via email prior to a drill involving "lockdown" procedures. Parents will also be notified as soon as possible following the implementation of any of these procedures due to an actual event.

School Culture

It is our goal to create a school-wide culture that is defined by our Skipper Creed: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible as well as the 5 core competencies of social and emotional learning defined by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL). According to CASEL, "social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions" (<https://casel.org/what-is-sel/>).



Self-Awareness

The ability to accurately recognize one’s own emotions, thoughts, and values and how they influence behavior. The ability to accurately assess one’s strengths and limitations, with a well-grounded sense of confidence, optimism, and a “growth mindset.”

- Identifying emotions
- Accurate self-perception
- Recognizing strengths
- Self-confidence
- Self-efficacy

Self-Management

The ability to successfully regulate one’s emotions, thoughts, and behaviors in different situations — effectively managing stress, controlling impulses, and motivating oneself. The ability to set and work toward personal and academic goals.

- Impulse control
- Stress management
- Self-discipline
- Self-motivation
- Goal setting
- Organizational skills

Social Awareness

The ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds and cultures. The ability to understand social and ethical norms for behavior and to recognize family, school, and community resources and supports.

- Perspective-taking
- Empathy
- Appreciating diversity
- Respect for others

Relationship Skills

The ability to establish and maintain healthy and rewarding relationships with diverse individuals and groups. The ability to communicate clearly, listen well, cooperate with others, resist inappropriate social pressure, negotiate conflict constructively, and seek and offer help when needed.

- Communication
- Social engagement
- Relationship building
- Teamwork

Responsible Decision-Making

The ability to make constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions based on ethical standards, safety concerns, and social norms. The realistic evaluation of consequences of various actions, and a consideration of the wellbeing of oneself and others.

- Identifying problems
- Analyzing situations
- Solving problems
- Evaluating
- Reflecting
- Ethical responsibility

CASEL 2017 (www.casel.org)

Code of Conduct

Expectations for Behavior

Students are expected to behave in a way that promotes learning, that exemplifies the Skipper Creed, and that fosters a positive, inclusive, environment. Teachers and students establish expectations for each classroom community. Below are school-wide expectations for behavior.

In the halls students are expected to:

- Be respectful of classes that are in session
- Walk quietly and to the right
- Go directly to their destination

- Line up in an orderly fashion when traveling as a class and during dismissal procedures
- Maintain their lockers and belongings in a safe and orderly manner

In the cafeteria students are expected to:

- Move through the serving area in a quiet, orderly manner
- Remain seated at their assigned tables
- Use appropriate table manners
- Refrain from sharing food or purchasing food for others
- Speak in an acceptable manner in regard to volume and topic of discussion
- Respect school property and the belongings/personal space of others
- Remain in the cafeteria unless given permission by a lunch supervisor; sign out once permission is granted
- Clear tables and dispose of trash before leaving
- Listen carefully, respond promptly, and demonstrate respect toward lunch supervisors
- Line up quietly when the signal is given for dismissal from the cafeteria

On the playground students are expected to:

- Play carefully and in a manner that will not cause harm to self or others; games are touch only with no contact sports
- Follow established rules of the games
- Use playground equipment appropriately
- Follow the expectation that hard balls, toys, or electronic devices are not permitted on the playground
- Walk to their class line promptly when the signal is given by recess supervisors

On the bus students are expected to:

- Board and depart the bus in an orderly manner
- Remain in their seats while the bus is moving
- Remain silent at all train crossings
- Speak in an acceptable manner in regard to volume and topic of discussion
- Respect school property and the belongings/personal space of others
- Keep the aisles of the bus clear
- Keep objects and any parts of the body from hanging out of bus windows
- Listen carefully, respond promptly, and demonstrate respect toward bus drivers
- Refrain from eating or drinking

Inappropriate Behaviors

Students are subject to consequences for, but not limited to, the following inappropriate behaviors:

- Violation of the expectations outlined above in regard to appropriate behavior in the classroom, in the halls, in the cafeteria, on the playground, or on the bus
- Leaving the building or grounds without permission
- Unnecessary physical contact or aggressive behavior; fighting or threatening to fight
- Disrespectful behavior or threats toward any staff member
- Harassment or intimidation; bullying
- Stealing
- Cheating
- Possession of illegal substances
- Destroying or damaging school property
- Inappropriate, disrespectful, or abusive language
- Threatening the health, safety, and/or property of any student or staff member
- Refusal to obey a reasonable request from a staff member; defiance
- Possession or use of a weapon, including a replica or toy weapon
- Selling items without the permission of the principal
- Possession or use of personal electronic devices at school such as cell phones, tablets, and wearable technology devices that text/call/connect to the internet
- Plagiarism or forgery: (Please note that the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) programs such as ChatGPT and other tools to create and submit work as your own is considered plagiarism.)
- Inappropriate Use of Image Altering Technology: Students cannot intentionally alter any likeness of any member of the Deer Hill community using any form of image alteration programs (such as, but not limited to, artificial intelligence applications, (DeepFake/FaceSwap/ReFace, etc.) in an effort to discredit, harass, bully or intimidate that individual.

Possible Consequences

Deer Hill is committed to keeping students engaged in the learning process. Possible consequences for students who engage in inappropriate behaviors in violation of the Code of Conduct are at the discretion of the principal and may include but are not limited to:

- Verbal warning
- Written reflection about behavior
- Timeout for reflection and calming
- Loss of privileges
- Meeting with principal

- Communication with parent or guardian
- Peer mediation/conflict resolution
- Restorative action
- In-school suspension (in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws)
- Out-of-school suspension (in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws)
- Expulsion (in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws)

Bullying Policy

Deer Hill School is committed to providing a safe, positive and productive educational environment where students can achieve the highest academic standards. No student shall be subjected to harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyber-bullying.

"Bullying" is the repeated use by one or more students or school staff members of a written, verbal, or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- Causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property;
- Places the target in reasonable fear of harm to him/herself, or of damage to his/her property;
- Creates a hostile environment at school for the target;
- Infringes on the rights of the target at school; or
- Materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Please see our school website for Cohasset Public School's comprehensive [Bullying Policies and Reporting Forms](#). The District responds to reports of Bullying in accordance with the District's Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan.

Supervision of Athletic and other Extra-Curricular Programs

Students participating in voluntary co-curricular activities, including but not limited to intra-mural or interscholastic athletics, are required to return a signed release of liability to the director of the event/activity prior to engaging in the activity, event, or the commencement of the athletic season. As these activities are voluntary, the student's participation in an event, activity, or athletic season is conditioned upon receipt of the signed and returned release of liability form. Massachusetts law permits use of such releases for school-related voluntary co-curricular activities, including but not limited to athletics. Release forms will be distributed by the Athletic Director and/or by the administrator overseeing activities.

The student's participation in any co-curricular activity, including but not limited to intra-mural or interscholastic athletics of any nature, is conditioned on compliance with all applicable laws, district policies (including but not limited to policies relative to student conduct and discipline, bullying, hazing, harassment, and discrimination), all MIAA policies, and district values and behavioral expectations. In the interest of student safety and compliance with these laws, policies, values, and expectations, coaches and/or other school staff will routinely monitor locker

room activities. Such monitoring may include physical presence by coaches or other staff in locker rooms. While monitoring students in locker rooms, all coaches and staff will give appropriate consideration to student privacy. Students seeking increased privacy when changing clothes/uniforms may utilize individual stalls and/or privacy curtains or screens where available, and are encouraged to address any privacy related concerns with the coach or building principal.