

**Hawthorne Elementary School**  
**225 Memorial Drive**  
**Hawthorne, NY 10532**



**Parent Information**  
**2026-2027**

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## **ABOUT HAWTHORNE**

Hawthorne Elementary School is a learning community focused on sustaining and extending the natural curiosity and enthusiasm of our K-2 students. Hawthorne staff and families work together to nurture the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that lead to a mastery of basic skills and the development of social responsibility. We recognize and celebrate the needs of our students through our commitment to:

- Provide a safe, joyful learning environment where children can work harmoniously, creatively, and productively.
- Appreciate each child as an individual.
- Develop thinking and problem-solving through engagement in meaningful learning experiences.
- Expand each student's independence and autonomy through a balance of encouragement, support, and challenge.
- Nurture the development of social skills.

We are so excited to be working with you during this magical stage of childhood. Our team consists of close to 100 professionals who are dedicated to providing our students with an engaging and challenging school experience.

## **NEW FAMILIES**

We are so excited to welcome our new families each year. Whether this is your first child coming to kindergarten or you recently moved to Mt. Pleasant, we are excited to be on this journey with you. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

There are a few things you can do to prepare for the start of a new school year.

### **Two Weeks Before School**

- ★ Review the [HES Parent Information 25-26](#).
- ★ Log in to the [Parent Portal](#) on August 19th for class assignments and bus information.

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- ★ If you already ordered school supplies through A.Hartz, they will be sent directly to Hawthorne. If you still need to purchase supplies, please see the [school supply lists](#).
- ★ **If you purchased the supplies on your own, please bring the supplies to the Meet & Greet.**

### **One Week Before School**

- ★ Join us for the Meet and Greet on **September 2nd**.
  - Kindergarten 8:30-9:15
  - 1st Grade 10:00 -10:45
  - 2nd Grade 9:15-10:00
- ★ Review the School Dismissal Manager Information and set up your child's dismissal routine.
- ★ Review the [Important Information](#) from the Health Office.
- ★ Visit the [Food Service](#) page and set up [My School Bucks](#) if your child will purchase breakfast, lunch, or snacks. For the 2026-27 school year, breakfast and lunch will be provided free by NYS. More details can be found in the link above for our Food Service page.
- ★ **Please note we are a nut-free school.** Please do not send in food containing nuts, nut butter, or Nutella. Sunbutter (sunflower based) will be permitted for the 2026-27 school year.

### **First Day of School**

- ★ Kindergarten will begin one hour later at 9:15. The morning buses for kindergarten students will run one hour later on the first day of school. If you drive your kindergarten student to school, drop-off will be between 8:45 and 9:00 a.m. at the Brighton Avenue entrance.
- ★ Send your child to school with a healthy, nut-free snack. You may send your child to school with lunch, or breakfast and lunch can be purchased in the cafeteria.
- ★ Send in a change of clothes to be kept at school.
- ★ Have your child wear sneakers to school, as students attend physical education classes daily.
- ★ Have your kindergarten child wear the colored wristband they received at the Meet & Greet.
- ★ Give your child a big hug and let them know how excited you are for them to start their first day as a Hawthorne Wildcub.

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## **CURRICULUM**

This is an exciting time to be a learner in Mt. Pleasant. We are beginning the fifth year of our [Strategic Plan](#), which is focused on K-12 Alignment and Core Competencies, Culture of Care and Wellness, and Professional Development to Advance Teaching and Learning for All. As part of our Strategic Plan, we have outlined our core values and defined the [Portrait of a Mount Pleasant Learner](#).

In Literacy, we strive to provide our students with constructive and engaging learning grounded in a structured approach, including opportunities to develop *Lifelong Practices of Readers and Writers* (NYS NGSSELA). Our approach to reading includes the components of the Science of Reading (phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension).

In addition to the foundational work in reading, we emphasize growing readers with strong comprehension and a love of reading! We do this through immersion in texts during shared reading, read-aloud, guided, partner, and independent reading of texts that are familiar, just right, and challenging.

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After a two-year research and pilot process, our K-5 faculty selected *Into Reading* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) as our core resource for reading instruction. The 2025-2026 school year was our first year of full implementation.

Our math instruction is supported through the Eureka Math<sup>2</sup> Modules and supplemental resources such as DreamBox, Exemplars, and IXL. We continue to develop ways for students to become flexible, resourceful problem-solvers who can communicate their mathematical reasoning.

In science, we have aligned our instruction to the Next Generation New York State Standards and implemented the STEMscopes science curriculum.

In social studies, we use the Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES Integrated Social Studies and ELA curriculum and supplemental resources to teach students about self, families, and communities. As part of civics education, students learn about respect for others, citizenship, and democracy.

In addition to our core academic content areas, students receive daily instruction in Physical Education, which includes Health and Wellness. Students also attend Encore classes daily. Classes include Performing Arts, Library and Media, Visual Arts, FLES, and STEM.

Benchmark assessment periods occur three times per year. This information, along with regular classroom assessment, is used to design specific supports for individual students.

Sometimes, students may need additional targeted instruction to support their academic or social development. Additional support may take the form of differentiated instruction in the classroom and supplemental instruction with a member of our instructional or behavioral support team through our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS).

Your child's teacher will contact you if classroom performance or assessments indicate a need for additional support. Building-based support services are provided in consultation with parents and with written permission. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Your child's teacher will share important information about the curriculum throughout the year. Our Curriculum, monthly grade-level newsletters, and grade-level webpages have more information about our academic programs and instructional supports. Please see the links below for more information.

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## **SCHOOL HOURS**

School hours are from 8:15 a.m. to 2:55 p.m. daily. Our days include instruction in core academic and physical education, the performing arts, visual arts, STEM, FLES (Foreign Language in Elementary School) and library media. Students have a daily snack time and a one-hour lunch/recess period.

Early dismissal days are noted on the district calendar. **For parent conferences, dismissal is at 11:15 a.m. All other planned early dismissal days, such as Teacher Institute Days, are at 11:55 a.m.**

## **PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION**

At the beginning of the school year, please verify your child's information in the Parent Portal. In case of illness or medical emergency, the school will make every effort to contact the parents first. However, if we are unable to contact the parents, the school must be able to contact a designated, responsible adult.

Should any emergency contact information change (i.e., work numbers, etc.), please contact the school immediately so the necessary changes can be made.

## **COMMUNICATION**

The needs of students are best met when parents and teachers establish open and ongoing communication channels. Here are some key elements in our home-school communication network:

- For all immediate concerns, please contact the main office at 914-769-8536.
- Please use email for all non-urgent matters. Weekdays, you can expect a response in 24 hours. As for weekends and holidays, you can expect a response when school is back in session.
- *Parent Square* is an email and telephone system to communicate important information to parents. If you are not receiving updates from Parent Square,

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please contact the main office.

- The Mount Pleasant School District Calendar is given to the youngest sibling in September. It includes information on the district's programs, pre-scheduled activities, school holidays, and vacations. The calendar also lists the dates for the monthly Board of Education meetings, which are held at the Westlake Campus. Attendance at these meetings is encouraged.
- Back-to-School Night occurs in September. This evening meeting is designed for parents only and allows parents to visit their child's classroom, meet the teacher, and listen to a presentation on the curriculum and daily schedule.
- Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled in the fall and spring for all students. In addition to these scheduled conferences, you may meet with your child's teacher at any time. You may initiate a conference by contacting your child's teacher and making an appointment.
- Report cards are posted to the Parent Portal three times per year in December, March/April, and June. Progress reports are sent home for students receiving MTSS or Special Education services.
- Kindergarten registration is held by appointment during March. Several days are designated for registration; please check the school calendar for the dates. In early spring, there is a family orientation to provide parents with important information about our Kindergarten program. This is also an opportunity for our incoming students to visit the classrooms and make new friends.
- Throughout the year, parents are invited to school during the day as mystery readers, chaperones for class trips, partners in craft projects, and Cozy Corner volunteers. We also host evening events such as our Celebrations of Learning and Family Math and Literacy nights. During these special evening events, families visit the school to celebrate and applaud the achievements and progress of our students.

## **SAFETY DRILLS**

Safety and security are our top priorities. We conduct safety drills throughout the year, including fire drills and lockdown drills. Our Building-Level Emergency Response Team works collaboratively with the Mount Pleasant Police Department to conduct these drills. We will notify you about upcoming drills and upon completion of each lockdown

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drill.

When we discuss safety drills with students, we focus on the importance of following directions.

### **VISITORS**

When visiting Hawthorne, please be sure to have photo identification. All visitors must enter the building through the red doors at the Memorial Drive entrance. We ask that one person or family be in the vestibule at a time. Please wait outside the red doors if you see another person in the vestibule.

Once inside the vestibule, please use the intercom to communicate with our security desk. If you are dropping off something, please place it on the table and indicate on the form who the item is for.

Please do not hold the door open for other parties or let anyone outside of your group into the school. We appreciate your cooperation. Once you have entered the building, please do not proceed past the Security Greeter desk without confirmation from the staff at the desk.

### **DROPPING OFF, PICKING UP, & PARKING**

You will receive an email with your School Dismissal Manager credentials the week before the first day of school. Please log in to [School Dismissal Manager](#) to indicate your child's dismissal routine. ***The default dismissal (bus rider) will automatically be set to the bus route assigned in the Parent Portal - unless changed by a parent before the first day of school.***

If you pick your child up at Brighton, you must change your child's default dismissal in School Dismissal Manager. Please set up your initial routine before the first day of school.

During arrival and dismissal, please use the Brighton Avenue entrance if you drive your child to and from school. Arrival is between **7:50 and 8:10 a.m.** The Brighton gate will be closed **promptly at 8:10 a.m.**, and cars will be directed to the Memorial Drive entrance. Please proceed to the security window to sign in. Dismissal at Brighton is between 2:50 and 3:05 p.m.

The drop-off and pick-up area is a single-traffic lane within the Brighton circle. Please

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observe the stop sign before entering the circle. Please take your child out of the car on the passenger side, directly on the sidewalk. Do not let your child out on the driver's side or between the cars. Do not put your car in reverse or attempt to pass cars in front of your car.

Please remain in the car line and do not park in the lot when dropping off and picking up at Brighton. Staff will be stationed along the sidewalk to guide your child into the school.

At the end of the day, please have your [School Dismissal Manager](#) code ready so our staff can check you in for dismissal. Staff will escort students to the traffic circle for dismissal.

[School Dismissal Manager](#) is only used for regular dismissal hours. If you need to drop off or pick up your child from school outside of the regular dismissal hours, please sign in/out at the security desk at the Memorial Drive entrance. No child will be released to anyone other than a parent (or designated emergency contact) unless we have received prior notification. Please note that **early dismissal ends at 2:30 p.m.** If you arrive after 2:30 to pick up your child early, you must wait until normal dismissal time, 2:50, to do so.

If you visit the school during the day, please be aware of the no-parking signs on the nearby streets. We also ask that you refrain from parking in the numbered spaces assigned to staff. There are six visitor spaces available to the left of the flagpole in the Memorial Drive parking lot.

### **BUS INFORMATION & SAFETY RULES**

Every child is automatically assigned a bus route. This information can be accessed in the Parent Portal after the third week in August. You will receive an email when this information is posted. Before the first day of school, you must log in to [School Dismissal Manager](#) to confirm your child's dismissal routine. If your child is riding the bus, please make sure that the bus number in School Dismissal Manager is the same as the one indicated in the Parent Portal.

Please note that bus stop times are approximate. Please allow for a 10-15 minute time frame around the assigned time, as the route times fluctuate based on new ridership each year.

Bus tags will be mailed home before the start of school. Please complete the tag and

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attach it to your child's backpack. Please refrain from attaching any other toys or objects to the backpacks.

A team of bus monitors assists with student safety. Student bus seating is based on grade level, with an exception for siblings. Students are seated 3 to a seat. Students must wear seatbelts on the bus.

At the end of the school day, students will only be allowed off the bus if a parent/guardian or designee is waiting for them at the specific bus stop. If a parent/guardian or designee is not at their specific stop, the student will be brought back to Hawthorne Elementary School, and a parent/guardian will be notified.

**The District has a “one-stop per child” requirement.** If your child requires pick-up or drop-off at a stop other than the one connected to his or her home address (babysitter, daycare, etc.), please complete an [Alternate Stop Request Form](#).

**Bus hopping is not permitted.** For safety, security, and capacity concerns, students will not be allowed to ride a bus other than the bus they have been routed to. Arrangements should be made for pickup at school if the normally scheduled bus stop is not appropriate on a given day. To change a student's stop location for each day they are attending school, parents/guardians should use the [Alternate Stop Request Form](#) above. **Once the request is approved and posted to the Parent Portal, you must contact Christine Gianfrancesco in the office to change School Dismissal Manager before your child takes the new bus or uses the new stop.**

## **BUS SAFETY AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Parents, please arrive at the bus stop 5-10 minutes before the scheduled pick-up and drop-off times. Please escort your child to and from the bus entrance. Wait until the bus comes to a full stop before moving toward the bus.

**Please review and discuss this list of bus safety rules with your child:**

- Wait until the bus has stopped completely and the driver has opened the door before entering or leaving the bus.
- Enter and exit the bus in an orderly manner.
- Choose a seat quickly and remain seated until the bus reaches a full stop at

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school or home.

- Remain quiet on the bus and remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- Be courteous to the drivers and other passengers. Three students are allowed per seat.
- Eating or drinking is not permitted on the bus.
- Keep hands, heads, and feet inside the bus.
- Never throw anything out of the bus windows.
- Keep the floor clear to allow safe movement in an emergency.
- Be alert to traffic as you get off the bus. Move ten feet ahead of the bus until you can see the driver's face. Wait for the driver to signal so you know it is safe to cross. Look both ways before crossing.

## **FAQ'S**

### **1. What if I do not get to the bus stop on time?**

If you are not at the bus stop in the a.m., you must find alternate transportation. Please be advised that bus times can vary 5-10 minutes before or after the scheduled time, especially at the beginning of the school year.

If you are not at the bus stop at the scheduled pm drop-off time, the bus driver will not release your child. Your child will remain on the bus and be brought back to Hawthorne Elementary School at the end of the bus route. You will be notified and asked to pick your child up at the school. At no time will your child be left unattended.

### **2. What if I need to request an alternate bus stop?**

Parents/guardians may submit an alternate stop request via the Google form below. The requested change will be in effect every day the child attends school for the remainder of the school year unless another request is submitted. The form will be monitored periodically for updates and communicated to Royal Coach for implementation. Once the change is posted in the portal, you must contact Christine

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Gianfrancesco at 914 769-8536 x 4502 to update School Dismissal Manager with the changes.

- [Alternate Stop Request Form](#)

***\*\*Please note: Alternate Stop Requests are not effective immediately. Please continue to monitor the Parent Portal to see the status of your request.\*\****

### **3. What if my child has a problem on the bus?**

Encourage your child to report any concerns to the bus driver and school staff immediately. Please contact the school with any concerns regarding student conduct and safety. Please be aware that if there is a concern that your child is behaving on the bus in a way that jeopardizes the safety of other students or if they disregard directions from the bus driver, we will work together to address the situation. If this is an ongoing concern, bus transportation may be suspended. Contact the Transportation Department at the District Office with any concerns regarding bus routes (914) 769-5500.

### **BUS PRIVILEGES**

Riding the bus to school is a privilege. For students to be able to ride the bus to school, they must be able to follow directions and remain seated safely on the bus. If your child is not responsive to the bus driver or if they are engaging in behavior that is unsafe to themselves or others, they may be removed from the bus. In addition, a student who receives three or more incident reports from a bus driver or supervising adult may be denied bus privileges. At any time, if a student acts in a way to cause physical harm to another student, they may be removed from the bus.

We understand that removal from the bus creates an inconvenience for parents. However, our primary concern is the safety of all students on the bus. If your child's actions compromise the safety of other students, he/she will be removed from the bus.

Please see the district [Transportation Page](#) for more information.

### **HEALTH OFFICE**

Please see the important information from the Health Office regarding [Required Health Forms](#) for the 2026-2027 School Year.

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## HEALTH EXAMS

NYS law requires that students in Kindergarten or First Grade for the 2026-2027 school year have a Physical Exam Form on file in the Health Office. The exam must be done within 12 months before the beginning of the new school year and dated from September 1, 2025, forward.

Per NYS law, the physical exam documentation is required to be submitted within 30 days after school opens. Please submit your child's physical before October 1, 2026. If a physical is not submitted within 30 days of this notice, our district Medical Director will examine your child at Hawthorne Elementary. If a physical is not submitted by the deadline, your child may be denied school entry.

You may download a Physical Exam form (Health Appraisal) from the [district's website](#). Please call the Nurse's Office at 914-769-8535 if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

## IMMUNIZATIONS

The New York State Public Health Law, Section 2164, states that a child may not attend school unless the parent provides the school with a certificate of immunization or proof that the child is in the process of receiving the required immunizations.

A record of your child's immunizations or an official copy of the immunization record from the child's previous school (a copy of the original immunization record from the healthcare provider – not a copy of the school health record) is acceptable. A NYSIIS/NYCIR record is also acceptable. The exact date each immunization was given must be included in the record.

The required immunizations can be obtained from your family health care provider or your county health department at:

Westchester County Health Department @ 914-995-5800

Bring the immunization record to the School Health Office. It will be copied and returned to you. If you have questions or concerns about immunizations, please contact our school nurse.

**School Nurse:**  
**Phone #: 914-769-8535**

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**Fax: 914-769-1719**  
**alt. 914-769-8527**

## **VISION AND HEARING SCREENING**

Hearing and vision screenings are an integral part of the total school health program. All children at Hawthorne Elementary School receive them yearly.

## **MEDICATION**

The State Education Law and Nursing Practice Act prohibits school personnel from dispensing any internal medication to school children except under the following conditions:

- A written request from the family physician indicating the medication, dosage, and frequency of time the medication is to be given.
- A written request from the parent to administer the specified medication must be in the original, correctly labeled pharmacy container. The parent must deliver the medication to the school health office personnel.
- If your child will require medication while on a school-sponsored field trip, please consult with the nurse.

## **ABSENCES, TARDINESS, & LEAVING EARLY**

### **ABSENCES**

Under the New York State School Attendance Laws, parents are responsible for their child's regular and punctual school attendance.

**Please log in to [School Dismissal Manager](#) to report all attendance events--absences, tardiness, and leaving early. Please do not call the school or email the teacher to report the absence.**

For absences, parents must indicate in [School Dismissal Manager](#) each day that their child will be absent. Please include the absence reason. If your child is home due to illness, please indicate that in your communication. If your child is absent, and you do not indicate that in School Dismissal Manager, we will attempt to contact you by automated call and email.

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## TARDINESS

If your child will arrive late to school, please indicate that in [School Dismissal Manager](#). Repeated lateness to school interrupts your child's educational progress. We appreciate your support and cooperation in developing a routine that ensures your child's prompt arrival at school. School hours are from 8:15 a.m. to 2:55 p.m. If a child arrives at school later than 8:10 a.m., he/she must be signed in by a parent or guardian at the security desk.

## LEAVING EARLY

If you need to pick up your child earlier than the regular dismissal time, please indicate that in [www.schooldismissalmanager.com](http://www.schooldismissalmanager.com) and proceed to the Memorial Drive desk to sign out. No child will be released to anyone other than a parent (or designated person on the emergency card) unless we have received prior notification. **Please note that early pick-up is only allowed until 2:30 p.m.** After that time, you will need to pick your child up at the Brighton entrance.

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

At each stage of development, children learn new skills to navigate social situations. Care and wellness learning is an important part of our focus at Hawthorne. As our students learn to navigate their own emotions and function in social situations, our approach is supportive, instructive, and nurturing. Young children need opportunities to make mistakes and learn how to solve problems. Learning to take responsibility for our actions and developing ways to rectify challenging situations is a part of being a responsible community member.

Students have opportunities during structured and less structured times at school to practice these skills. Each challenge is an opportunity for learning and growth.

Our entire school staff works to help students develop social skills, strategies, and coping mechanisms, to foster a strong sense of self, and the capacity to relate to others. This is done through modeling, direct instruction, reading, role-playing, class meetings, and repeated practice of appropriate behaviors.

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This practice occurs throughout the school day. It is done both proactively and in response to specific situations. After a situation occurs, it is most effectively addressed in a timely manner.

We work together to help students develop problem-solving skills and resolve issues by allowing students to explain their perspectives. Often, issues result from misunderstandings and miscommunications. We work together to develop alternative courses of action and plan what to say and do next time.

At times, students need more specific, ongoing goal-setting and support. This is often done with parents, teachers, a school psychologist or guidance counselor, and a building administrator. Our counseling department is ready to assist you. Please visit our [Counseling Corner](#) for more information.

As students develop, they may face challenges adhering to the expectations of our [Code of Conduct](#). Please be assured that this is a process and that we are here to work together and support our children.

One frame we use to support our students is our Hawthorne STARS program. The purpose of the STARS initiative is to teach children proper ways to behave and to reward their efforts for positively contributing to a Responsible, Respectful, and Safe building-wide culture.

When students demonstrate STAR behaviors in the cafeteria, hallway, and/or playground, they may be recognized by receiving a STAR ticket. When a student receives a STAR ticket, the class earns a star in their class jar. Each classroom will be recognized for its accomplishments at the end of each month.

## **PARENT PORTAL**

### **Parent Portal Login Instructions**

Visit our [Hawthorne Elementary](#) web page. Click on the Parent Resources tab. Then select Parent Portal and Parent Portal Access.

You will need your child's student ID number to sign up for the [Parent Portal](#). If you are new to the school district and do not have your child's student ID number, call his or her school building to obtain that information. For assistance, contact Matt Madera, Database Specialist, at 914-769-5500 x1952 or [mmadera@mtplcsd.org](mailto:mmadera@mtplcsd.org)

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When you log in to the Parent Portal, you can view a student's information by clicking on their student ID number in blue. You will be brought to the Profile page. This screen displays calendar events at the district and school levels. You will also see your student's information on the left. During the summer, the portal will be closed for maintenance on July 21st and will reopen in mid-August.

Report cards will be posted to the portal after the marking period ends, and a menu on the top bar of the screen will display when these become available. The top right corner of your screen will always display menu choices. This button will take you back to your Home screen, where you can choose the student you want to view.

### **ATTIRE**

Students should wear or bring sneakers to school every day. Our students receive instruction in physical education every day, and they must have sneakers for the playground. Please do not send your child to school in slippers, flip-flops, or sandals.

Clothing should be comfortable and durable. Students will be going outside to play, weather permitting. Please send your child to school in appropriate clothing for the playground. Minimal jewelry should be worn. Warm, layered clothing is advised for winter days. Hats and gloves are essential for outdoor recess in the winter.

On the first day of school, please send an extra set of clothing for your child. Please label all clothes with your child's name. An extra pair of pants, underwear, socks, and a shirt will be helpful in case of an accident, spill, or illness.

### **CLOSINGS/EARLY DISMISSAL**

Announcements of emergency school closings, delayed openings, emergency conditions, cancellations, and early dismissals will be made via the Parent Square system. Information is also available on News 12 Westchester.

When there is a delayed opening, it will be necessary for parents to make arrangements for the care of their children until school begins. If there is a two-hour delay, the Brighton drop-off will be open at 9:50 a.m.

If there is an early dismissal due to weather or any other emergency, you will be notified through Parent Square.

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## **SUPPLIES**

Our website posts a [supply list](#) for each grade level. Your child's teacher will let you know if additional supplies are needed.

## **LOST AND FOUND**

Our Lost and Found is located in the cafeteria. Please encourage your child to check when they discover an item is missing. Then, email Christine Gianfrancesco at [cgianfrancesco@mtplcsd.org](mailto:cgianfrancesco@mtplcsd.org) and indicate Lost & Found in the subject line. Please label all backpacks, clothing, lunch boxes, and other school items with your child's name so they can be returned if lost.

## **BREAKFAST, LUNCH & SNACK**

### **BREAKFAST & LUNCH**

**Hawthorne is a nut-free school. This includes peanuts, tree nuts, and hazelnuts.** Please do not send your child to school with products containing peanuts, tree nuts, Nutella, or any other nuts. If you accidentally send a product with nuts, we will call you to arrange for school lunch, or you can drop off another meal. We will dispose of the food containing nuts.

**For the 2026-27 school year, breakfast and lunch are free for all NYS public school students.** This does not include á la carte items such as snacks or second helpings. For these additional items, the student's My School Bucks account will be charged.

Hot and cold breakfast and lunch are available in the Hawthorne cafeteria. All students have a choice of hot and cold selections. They may also purchase beverages or snacks to accompany lunches brought from home. The menu is posted on our website.

Our school district utilizes the [My School Bucks](#) POS (Point of Sale) computerized software system. Each student is assigned a PIN number to be used when making a purchase.

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Please visit our [Food Service](#) webpage for more information.

## **SNACK**

Every day, your child will have time set aside for a snack break. As this is an important part of your child's day, you are asked to send in nutritious snacks daily. This may include fruit, raw vegetables, raisins, etc. Please note that all of our classrooms are **nut-free** due to student allergies. Please adhere to specific snack guidelines for your child's classroom.

## **RECESS**

Recess is a vital part of a child's day. Fresh air, exercise, and sunshine are essential for a healthy body and mind. We will make every effort for students to have outdoor recess.

When the temperatures are 32 degrees or higher, the students will go outside for recess. However, during colder weather, decisions about outdoor recess will be made using the Guidelines for Cold Weather from the New York Statewide School Health Services Center in conjunction with AccuWeather.com. When wind chills are below 25 degrees, students will not go outside. Please understand that as weather conditions change throughout the day, we may transition from indoor to outdoor recess.

Please ensure your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the weather daily.

Please take some time to discuss cold weather safety with your child. Please instruct your child to tell an adult if they are cold and/or feeling pain or numbness in their hands, feet, ears, or nose. If your child has a medical reason why they cannot be outside in cold weather, please consult with the school nurse.

## **SCHOOL PROPERTY**

If your child loses or destroys school property, such as library books or recess supplies, you will be asked to either provide a replacement or send a check to cover the cost of the replacement.

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework reinforces, enriches, and expands upon classroom learning and helps our

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students to develop independent work habits. Students at Hawthorne are expected to read to or with someone at home daily. Additional homework in math and word study may also be assigned. A student should spend no more than 10 minutes a night on homework for each grade level, in addition to the 10-20 minutes they spend reading each night. Please consult with your child's teacher if you notice that your child is having difficulty with homework assignments.

Homework will not be provided for family vacations.

### **MONEY & TOYS IN SCHOOL**

There are times when children need to bring money to school for class trips, PTA fundraising events, Cozy Corner Bookstore, etc. It is advisable to put a check in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the child's name, grade, and purpose for which the money is intended. Please avoid sending your child to school with cash.

Please refrain from sending your child to school with toys and personal electronics, including cell phones and smart watches. Your child's teacher will contact you regarding any celebrations or activities that involve bringing items from home.

### **CLASS PARENTS**

Two parents are selected from each class to work with the PTA and the classroom teacher in planning parties, chaperoning field trips, and coordinating parent volunteers for PTA events.

### **CLASS PARTIES**

Class parents must send a list of parents attending class parties to the classroom teacher and the Greeter at least three days before the scheduled party.

### **BIRTHDAY PARTIES AND INVITATIONS**

Please do not send birthday invitations or notes to other families to the school for distribution.

### **CLASS TRIPS**

Field trips are an important part of our educational program and are a direct outgrowth of our curriculum. Attendance on class trips is important as part of our grade-level

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curriculum. Notification of class trip details will be sent home with your child, along with a parental consent form. Your written permission is needed for your child to be able to participate in each field trip.

A transportation and entry fee may be required. If the cost of a trip poses a financial burden, please contact your child's teacher or the school office for assistance so that your child can participate in these activities.

Two class parents usually accompany students and the teacher on field trips. If additional supervision is required, the class parents will contact other parents in the class for assistance.

### **PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION EVENTS, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS**

The [Elementary PTA](#) maintains open communication among parents, teachers, staff, and administration. Our amazing PTA works to enhance the educational experiences of all our children. Our PTA has many opportunities for you to become active in the school community. These opportunities are not limited to school hours. You can volunteer for one event or task or more, depending on your availability.

**We urge you to join the PTA and actively participate!**

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