



Welcome to Unity Drive

Kindergarten Parent Information
Session
August 28, 2026

Welcome to Unity Drive Kindergarten



Denise Ferrera, Principal 285-8764 dferrera@mccsd.net

Lynn MacLean Building, Secretary 285-8762 lmaclean@mccsd.net

Carolee Messier-Melisi, Attendance Secretary 285-8763 cmelisi@mccsd.net

Sylvia Sayer, Social Worker 285-8769 ssayer@mccsd.net

Danielle Polanish- School Nurse 631-285-8770 DPolanish@mccsd.net

Head Custodian: Dominic DiSalvo

Custodians: Frank Spatafora and Chris Minone

Food Service: Ms. Judith & Ms. Katie

Greeters: Ms. Lionetti & Ms. Scholl

Security: Mr. Domingo

Our School Day

Arrival: 9:10 AM. Upon arrival, students will be greeted and supervised by staff as they exit their assigned bus, enter through the walker door, or are released from SCOPE Before Care.

Dismissal: 3:30 PM to 3:45 PM. At dismissal, students are escorted to their bus, to SCOPE Aftercare, or to the walker dismissal door by staff.

First set of buses usually roll out around 3:30 PM and typically the subsequent sets of buses roll out by 3:45 PM.

Walker Door opens at 3:30 PM. At dismissal, walkers will be released to adults 18 years of age or older who have **valid picture identification** and are designated, in writing, by the parent/guardian to pick the child up. Walkers are picked up at the Pre-K entrance of the building. Please be sure we have custody papers on file, if applicable.

Breakfast is available until 9:30 AM daily and is eaten in the classroom.

Lunch Periods (lunch and recess): 12:10-12:50, 12:50-1:30*

This school year all students will receive free meals. If you want your child to purchase a la carte items (cookies/water) you will need to set up a My School Bucks account

SCOPE Before & After Care- Drop off and pick up at the cafeteria door.



Kindergarten

Most classes have 22-24 students with one teacher.

The Teaching Assistant is with the class for only part of the school day.

Communication:

You can reach teachers by email.

Some teachers may use Dojo, Remind, TalkingPoints, etc.

Teachers will invite the students to join their Google classroom where you can see information and tasks.

Please remember the teachers are with students during the school day most of the time. They are not usually able to respond to emails or messages immediately. If you have an urgent matter that needs an immediate response, please contact the main office and we will try to assist you.



The Unity Kindergarten Specials Team

Ms. Burdick- Math Literacy

Ms. Voigt- Music

Ms. Pagano- Art

Mr. Altebrando & Ms.Labbadia- Physical Education

Ms. Maia & Ms. DuQuesnay- Speech

Ms. Paternoster- Hearing Teacher

Ms. Sayer- School Social Worker

Ms. China-OT

Ms. Allyson-PT



PTA Board 2026-2027



President: Sasha Willig

Vice President: Joann Kenney

Treasurer: Ashley Guarino Vega

Recording Secretary: Danielle Uihlien

Corresponding Secretary: Alexa Kopiske

Council Delegate: Diana Tkaczuk



Join the PTA

The Unity Drive PTA is a great way to be involved in your child's education.

PTA is more than just fundraising. We discuss various aspects of school programs, Arts in Education, Parent/Child events, safety, and much more.

Every dollar from your membership fee goes to the school.

We have meetings every other month beginning in September.

Please consider volunteering to help us organize events.

Even bite size pieces of time are much appreciated!



Transportation

Department of Transportation

Mr. Jose Bonilla

631-285-8880

JBonilla@mccsd.net

Please email Mr. Bonilla with questions or issues.



Bus Information

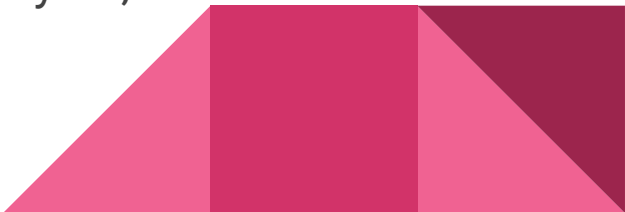
Your child will get a class tag in the mail. Please be sure your child wears it everyday for the first few weeks of school.

Your bus route information is on the parent portal as well as in the mailing that is coming to your home.

The bus number is not the painted number on the bus. It is located in the window on a printed sign.

Please be at the bus stop 15 minutes prior to your scheduled time as the bus will not wait for you.

Kindergarten buses tend to run late in the beginning of the year, so please be patient.



Bus Info (continued)

Bus drivers cannot see everything that occurs on the bus. You or your child need to inform the driver of any situations that occur.

Eating or drinking on the bus is not permitted.

Any items brought on the bus must be kept on the child's lap or on the floor in front of him/her.



Arrival and Dismissal on the Bus



What will bus travel look like?

Students will be required to stay seated and wear seatbelts when traveling on the bus. Parents are not permitted on the bus, so please practice buckling up with your child so they can do it independently.

Dismissal for bus riders occurs between 3:30 PM and 3:45 PM. Students are walked to their bus. This process takes much time, especially in the beginning of the year. The children are well supervised.

An individual, who is on the bus driver's list [K/1 Bus Stop Release](#), needs to be at the assigned bus stop when the bus arrives. Children cannot be released if there is no authorized person present at the bus stop. Children will be returned to the building and a parent/authorized adult will be required to pick them up at Unity Dive School. Please be sure we always have updated contact information for you.

First day/week of school, transportation may be running late. Please do not panic if the bus does not arrive at the time specified on your transportation information. Drivers may be adjusting to the new routes. Know they are in good, safe hands!

Where's The Bus App

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Middle Country School District school buses are equipped with cutting-edge GPS technology called Wheres The Bus™ that lets you know precisely when your child's bus will arrive at your bus stop. This application is free and will provide up-to-the-minute bus arrival time and location information for all Middle Country school buses. By using the Wheres The Bus™ app, you may be able to reduce the amount of time you wait for the bus in the morning and afternoon.

The Wheres The Bus™ application is simple to set up and takes less than 5 minutes:

1. Download the Wheres The Bus™ app from the App Store (iOS / Apple) or Google Play Store (Android).
2. You will be prompted to create an account.
3. Select Middle Country from the dropdown menu and provide your student's information.
4. Once your student's information is verified, your account will be active.
5. Log in to the app from any Internet enabled device (smartphone, tablet, PC, iPod) and access real-time bus information for your student(s).

For technical support and questions about signing-up your child, email support@wheresthebus.com.

I encourage you to try this exciting new technology, as we continually strive to provide you with the best possible transportation service.

Sincerely,

Jose Bonilla

Jose Bonilla
Middle Country School District
School Transportation Supervisor



“Where’s the Bus” App

Know where your child’s bus is with a simple app called
Where’s the Bus!

Use this link for more information and how to download the app!

<https://wheresthebus.com/>



Walkers and Car Arrival/Dismissal



Parents who will be driving their child to school/picking up from school **must ONLY park in the parking lot off of Virginia Rd.**

Cars may not park on the street, in front of the building, or in the bus loop. Please be respectful of our neighbors. You may be ticketed!

Parents are not permitted to enter the building at this time.

Arrival begins at 9:10 AM. Students are dropped off at the Pre-K Entrance and supervised by a staff member as they go to their classrooms. Your child is considered late after 9:20 when the doors close. At that point you must bring them to the front door and sign them in.

Dismissal begins at 3:30 p.m. the doors by Pre-K will open for parent pick up. All adults picking up a student must be 18 years of age or older, have a valid picture identification and the person must be listed on the child's emergency contact card or have a written note from the parent.

Please be sure your child is wearing their class tag the first few weeks of school.

Early Dismissal

District Early Dismissal:

- ❖ Scheduled Early Dismissal days are listed on the school calendar and we will remind you of the dismissal times prior to those days.
- ❖ Inclement Weather- will be announced on the District website and via phone call/text message. (Please be sure Central Registration has your correct contact information.)

Personal Early Dismissal

- ❖ For safety reasons, we are unable to release any students for early dismissal after 3:00 PM nor can we pull a student off the bus line once dismissal starts.
- ❖ If you need to pick your child up early from school, please send your child in that day with a note that has the following information
 - Child's FULL NAME
 - Date and time of expected pick up
 - Teacher's Name
 - FULL NAME of the person who will pick up your child
 - Your FULL name printed and then signed by you

If you have an unexpected emergency and need to pick up your child, please call the main office and you will be given instructions on how to proceed.



School Nurse: Danielle Polanish
Email: DPolanish@mccsd.net
Office #: 631-285-8770 Office Fax: 631-285-8985
Nurse Notes



- ★ Physicals and immunizations are mandated by NY state so if you have not done so, please get them in as soon as possible. Required immunizations **must** be completed within the 14-day grace period after school starts (calendar days).
- ★ Physicals are different from immunizations- need height and weight included.
- ★ If your child has a medical issue or allergy that you would like to go over or new surgeries or injuries since registration, **please call or email and provide any pertinent medical documentation.**
- ★ We are allergy aware, not allergen free, so if your child has an allergy, it is extremely important that we know about it so that we can make accommodations if necessary.
- ★ If your child requires medication in school, the nurse **cannot** administer it without a doctor's note with his or her signature. This includes over the counter medication such as Tylenol and even eye drops or creams for eczema.
- ★ If you brought any medication with you today with the MD order (cannot be pharmacy prescription) or the appropriate MCCSD form completed, the nurse can take it today. Medication must be in the original container. Otherwise, you can bring it on the first day of school. Medication must be dropped off by an adult. Please **do not** put any medication in your child's backpack.

Nurse Notes (Continued)

- ★ If you have not received a contact card in the mail yet, you will shortly. Please provide as many phone numbers as you can. This is what we will be using to contact someone if your child is sick or if there is an emergency. Students will only be released to people on contact cards.
- ★ Please keep a set of clothes (seasonally appropriate) in your child's backpack in case of a bathroom accident, or if they spill something on themselves. Please place clothes in ziploc bag with student's name.
- ★ If your child has a bathroom accident and they cannot change themselves, we will be calling you to come in to change them. If your child has a bowel movement bathroom accident, you will be called to come in to change them
- ★ If your child is going home sick, they will be released by the nurse. Please have ID ready to enter the building and then for the nurse to verify.
- ★ If your child is sent home or stays home due to an illness, they must be fever, vomit, and diarrhea free for 24 hours without the use of medication before coming back to school, unless they have a doctor's note clearing them to return.



Meals and Snacks

School meals will be free of charge to students this school year, however if your child will buy any a la carte items (cookies/water) this year, please set up a MySchoolBucks account.

Monthly menus are posted on the district website. We do not send home paper copies. [monthly menus](#)

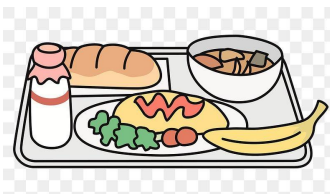
If you will send your child to school with lunch/snack, please note that **ALL CLASSROOMS ARE ALLERGY AWARE**. We ask that you consider nut-free alternatives when sending in snacks and lunches. Some children have other severe allergies, besides nuts so your child's teacher may share some additional considerations in regard to allergies.

If your child has a food allergy/restriction, please inform the school nurse and the main office.

Children will not share food. Areas are cleaned regularly. Food celebrations are kept to a minimum.

SPECIAL ALLERGY NOTE: We have staff and students with latex allergies, therefore latex balloons will not be permitted in the school.

Please help us to keep free meals in the district by filling out the Community Eligibility Provision Form. They are available in the office. You can return the completed form in your child's class folder.



Celebrations

We have many school and class celebrations and events during the year that we encourage you to attend.

To make these celebrations fun and safe for all please remember:

- *Always bring photo identification with you when entering the building.
 - *Please do not bring or send in food, goodie bags, or latex balloons for celebrations as these items pose allergen, safety, and choking hazards.
 - *Please do engage with your child during these activities and enjoy the time with them!
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Born to Learn

Children are natural born learners. It is up to the adults to foster and enhance that excitement of learning and discovering!

Together we can make learning fun and exciting!



Curriculum and Standards

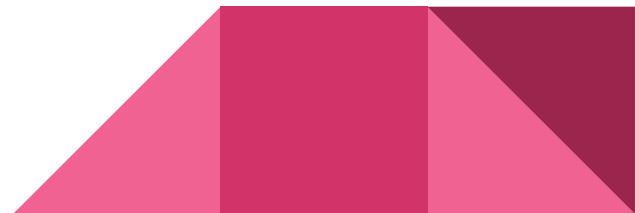
Kindergarten curriculum as described in our district guides and includes:

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science

[NYS P-12 Learning Standards](#)

Special Area Classes: Art, Music, Physical Education (PE), Math Literacy

Lunch and Recess: Cafeteria/Playground (weather permitting); Gym (when available)



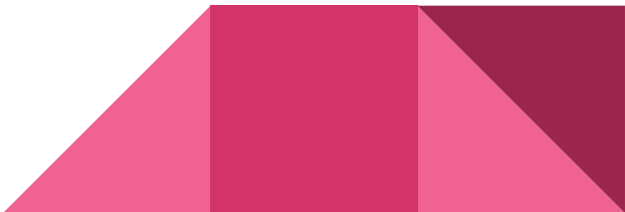
Chromebooks

Every student is issued a Chromebook by MCCSD that they will use throughout their student career in the district. Your child will receive a chromebook if they were not already issued one in UPK. A Chromebook agreement will be sent home prior to your child receiving one. We must receive the signed agreement back before we send home the Chromebook,

The students will bring their Chromebooks to and from school as per the teacher's request.

Please be sure your student's Chromebook stays in the provided case, is charged, and remains in good condition.

Issues with Chromebook hardware can be addressed by filling out a Technology "ticket" found on the district website. <https://mccsd.incidentiq.com/>



Parent Portal

You will need to set up your parent portal account as per the letter sent to you earlier this summer.

The Portal will allow you to see your child's teacher, bus information, report card and email address/login information.

Instructions and assistance can be found on the website:

[Data Services / PowerSchool Parent/Student Portal Information](#)



Google Classrooms/Student Email

Each teacher will have a *Google Classroom*. Your child's teacher will share the code with you when school starts.

Please log in with your child's student email address as provided by *MCCSD*.

Access cannot be granted with any other email address.



Visitors to Unity Drive

All visitors coming to Unity Drive, including family members, must present valid photo identification prior to gaining access to the building.

Visitors are asked the purpose of their visit to our school prior to gaining access.

Visitors will be given a dated visitor pass, which must be worn at all times while in the building.

Visitors will be required to sign in and out.

For large events, visitors will be asked to show photo identification as well as the issued event ticket.

We ask for your cooperation in maintaining the security of the building.



SUPPLY DROP OFF

You can drop off your child's supplies on

Tuesday, September 1st from 10 am to 2 pm at the front entrance.

Please be sure your **child's full name and teacher's name** are on the box or bag that you drop off.

We cannot be responsible for items that are not properly labeled.

You can access supply the list on our school webpage

[Unity Kindergarten Supply List](#)



Some Upcoming Events:

9/1- Playground Visit Pre-K 11:00 am-12:00 pm/ K 12:30-1:30 pm & Supply Drop off from 10-2

9/8- First Day of School

9/11- Patriot Day- Wear Red, White and Blue

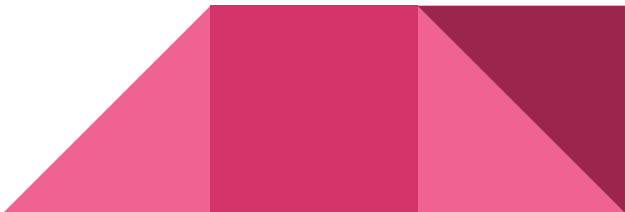
9/15- First Evacuation Drill

9/18- Back to School PTA Picnic

9/14- Miss Chocolate Fundraiser begins

9/22- First PTA Meeting

See our monthly calendar for all upcoming events!



Questions?

If you have any questions, you can email me

dferrera@mccsd.net

Or call us 631-285-8760

We are all in this together with the common goal of giving your Kindergartener the best learning experience possible!

We are a team!



Let's

Work

Together

