



Wayside Elementary School Office of the Principal

733 Bowne Road
Ocean, NJ 07712
dpalaia@oceanschools.org
(732) 531-5710 ext. 5000

Denise Palaia
Principal

WAYSIDE ROCKS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you and your child to the [Wayside Elementary School](#) for the 2026-2027 school year. We are looking forward to a productive and successful year working with you to provide the best educational program possible for your child. You are the first and most long-lasting important teacher in your child's life. This is why we at the Wayside Elementary School continually encourage your involvement and support. As "Partners in Learning," we can make the 2026-2027 school year a success.

The following is provided for your information and use.

School will open on Thursday, September 3, 2026.

- The Township of Ocean School District uses [Genesis](#) as our Student Information System and Parent and Student Portal provider. Please access the Parent Portal throughout the school year to complete required online forms and documents, access your child's teacher assignment, class schedule, and report cards. If you do not have a Parent Portal account, please contact the main office. The Genesis Parent Portal for elementary schools will open on August 24, 2026.

School Hours

Grades K to 4 8:45 am - 3:15 pm
Preschool 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

School Phone Numbers

Main Office, Mrs. Kristin Zdan, Secretary: 732-531-5710, Ext. 5000
Nurse, Mrs. Case: 732-531-5710, Ext. 5010 acase@oceanschools.org
Supvr. of Transportation, Ms. Daile Stapienski 732-531-5600 Ext. 1950/1951

School Calendar

Please review the 2026-2027 [School Calendar](#) for pertinent information regarding early dismissals and school closures.



Home of the Spartans!
#SpartanLegacy



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Student Handbook

Please review the [Elementary School Handbook](#) with your child. It provides specific information around protocols, procedures, and expectations for our school.

Preschool/Kindergarten Orientation for Parents and Students

You and your child are invited to our [Orientation Program](#) on Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

- **Kindergarten Orientation on September 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Preschool orientation for parents and students will be September 2, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.**

We recommend that you attend our orientation in order to eliminate any concerns associated with the first day of school. Parents will have the opportunity to ask questions. This meeting will give your child the chance to become familiar with the school environment prior to the excitement of opening day, Thursday, September 3, 2026.

Bus Information

Your child's bus pass will be available in Genesis after August 28, 2026.

Please check the bus stop and have your child there **10 minutes** prior to the time indicated. If you have any questions concerning transportation, call Ms. Daile Stapienski, Supervisor of Transportation at **732-531-5600 Extension 1951/1954. Transportation Directive:** Students will not be permitted to change buses for babysitting, parties, playtime, etc. **Bus drivers will not leave a kindergarten child at a stop unless there is someone to take him/her home.**

First Day Information

PTA parents will meet kindergarten and first graders as the buses arrive and direct them to the proper classrooms. **Preschool and Kindergarten students will be provided a nametag at orientation. The nametag should be attached firmly to your child's backpack every day until the teacher feels it is no longer necessary. First grade students will receive their nametags the first day of school.**

Second, Third, and Fourth grade students will report directly to their classrooms upon their arrival to school. Please make sure your child knows his/her room number.

Open Houses: September 14, 2026 (Monday), 7:00 pm – Grades Preschool, Kdg., & 1st
September 16, 2026 (Wednesday), 7:00 pm – Grades 2nd, 3rd, & 4th

Please make every effort to attend. At this time, you will become familiar with bus safety, our school's goals, rules, policies, and procedures and hear from your child's teacher(s).

School Pictures

Pictures will be taken on September 28, 2026. More information will be forthcoming.

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Entering the Building – Building Security

All persons entering the school building must report to the front office, show ID and receive a pass and permission to go to any other area of the building.

Morning Drop-Off Procedures

Please be advised that students **MAY NOT** be dropped off prior to 8:35 a.m. at school as there is no supervision provided for them before that time. Students should be dropped off at the side entrance.

The Ocean Township Department of Community Services, Project Extend will have child care from 7:00 am - 8:45/9:30 for PK a.m. and from 3:15 pm – 6:00 p.m. For further information, please call 732-531-2600. Please **write a note the first day of school informing us that your child will be staying after school for Project Extend.**

Student Pick-Up/Release of Students

- If your child is to be picked up early, or at the regular dismissal time, you **MUST** send the teacher a note giving complete details, as to who will pick him/her up and the specific time he/she should be dismissed.
- If you are picking your child up prior to dismissal time, you must come into the main office and sign the child out.
- If your child is a walker, you must sign them out from door #41 unless you have signed a letter giving permission for them to walk home on their own.
- **If you are picking your child up at dismissal time, you will have to sign them out at door #41, next to the kindergarten playground.**
- If you have any changes in your child's daily schedule, such as leaving school early, not going on the bus, etc. **We must have a written notification presented to the office in the morning.** Please notify the office in writing if there are any restrictions pertaining to the release of your child. **Students will not be released to another adult without a note from a parent or guardian.** The school **MUST** be notified in writing any time there is a change in your child's dismissal procedure. If we do not receive a note, your child will follow normal dismissal procedures.
- ****Only fourth graders will be able to ride their bikes to school unescorted after filling out a permission slip supplied by the office. Siblings and younger students will only be able to ride bikes if they are escorted by a parent/guardian.****

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Student Absences

When a student is absent, the parent must call the nurse's office, 732-531-5710 extension 5010 by 9:00 am, you may leave your message. A note is required on the first day back stating the reason for the absence.

If your child is going to be absent for more than 1 day and you would like him/her to have homework to do, please call the office before 10 a.m.

Student Tardiness

All students are expected to arrive at school on time. **If a student is arriving after 8:45 am, parents must escort their child to the main office and sign them in. Please do not just drop the child off outside.**

Conferences/Early Dismissal Dates (Dates, noted below, are subject to change)

November 17, 18, 19, 20 - Teacher Conferences – Early Dismissal (Grades PreK - 4)

- Grades K-4 (1:05 pm) / Preschool (1:35 pm)
- November 19th - Evening Conferences 6:00pm - 8:00pm

November 26 - Day before Thanksgiving - Early Dismissal - (Grades PreK - 4)

- Grades K-4 (1:05 pm) / Preschool (1:35 pm)

December 23, - Day Before Winter Break - Early Dismissal (Grades PreK - 4)

- Grades K-4 (1:05 pm) / Preschool (1:35 pm)

June 15, 16, 17, 18 – End of School Year – Early Dismissal (Grades PreK - 4)

- Grades K-4 (1:05 pm) / Preschool (1:35 pm)

Delayed School Openings & School Closings

Weather conditions or other circumstances are reasons for school closings. A two hour "Delayed Opening" may go into effect when it seems likely that conditions will improve later in the morning.

As a general practice, the District avoids an "Emergency Early Dismissal" because of the risk. Sending young children home to uncertain supervision can be more dangerous than remaining in school. Currently, if it snows after the start of school, students will

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remain in school until the regular dismissal time. This action will provide more time for roads to be plowed, salted and sanded. In this circumstance, concerned parents are free to pick up their children from school at any time, however, we do recognize that there may be an extraordinary condition that might warrant an early dismissal. This action would be warranted only if children were unsafe in the school building or if the Office of Emergency Management directed us to do so.

When schools are closed, our district will not provide transportation to those students who attend private or parochial schools. In addition, when schools are closed, all athletic and co-curricular activities will be canceled. Because buildings will be closed, facilities will not be available for public use.

Continue checking after a delayed opening is announced. An initial decision to delay opening may be changed to a school closing. That decision will also be announced.

During inclement weather, parents can obtain information about the schools in the following ways:

- In conjunction with the municipality, REGROUP, an automated telephone notification system will contact anyone with children in our school district. Please keep your child's school updated with phone number changes. If you have a call-blocking system, you may not be able to receive the automated call. The system will call you up to three (3) times within a few minutes of each other if the line is busy.
- Visit www.oceanschools.org
- Call the Superintendent's Office (732-531-5600 ext. 3000)
- Follow our superintendent on X (formerly Twitter) @MsKWeldon
- Facebook page: www.facebook.com/TownshipofOceanSchoolDistrict

In case of a delayed opening or early dismissal, district Elementary Schools will operate on the following schedule:

	<u>Delayed Opening</u>	<u>Early Dismissal</u>
Grades K-4	10:45 am - 3:15 pm	8:45 am – 1:05 pm
Preschool	11:30 am - 3:30 pm	9:30 am – 1:35 pm

Bus schedules will also be delayed two hours (i.e. if your child gets the bus at 8:10 am they will be picked up at 10:10 am). Students will return home at the regular time.

Delayed Opening: Lunch will be served; breakfast will not be served
Early Dismissal: Breakfast and Lunch will be served

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If school is dismissed early, without advance notice, every effort is made to contact the home of all our students. Many times the parent cannot be reached. We urge you to instruct your child where he/she is to go if they arrive home and no one is there. Also, be sure we have the name, address and phone number of babysitters. Please be sure to advise the office of any phone number changes or emergency number changes as they occur.

Additional Information

Electronics - Cell phones, iPods, Air Pods, watches equipped with Wi-Fi or cellular service, and electronic games are not permitted in school. Valuable items should not be sent to school with your child as we cannot be responsible for them.

Medication – all medication in school **MUST** be administered by the school nurse. Students are not to have medication in their possession at any time during school hours. Medication must be brought to school and picked up by the parent. It must be contained in the pharmacist's package, providing proper instructions and the physician's name.

Label clothing - Clothing such as jackets should be labeled so that lost articles can be identified and returned promptly. Make sure to label your child's lunchbox.

On-Line Resources

- Follow us on Facebook: Ask to join the [Wayside Elementary School NJ PTA](#)
- Follow Ms. Palaia on X formerly Twitter @DPalaia

Physical Education – Children are required to have sneakers on the two days each week they have physical education.

Parent-Teacher Association – Our PTA meets regularly. Please check the [District Activities Calendar](#) for dates of PTA meetings.

Students will be discouraged from calling home for forgotten items such as homework, library books, or sneakers etc.

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Again, I would like to welcome you and your child to [Wayside Elementary School](#), and I look forward to a successful year!

Sincerely,

Denise T. Palaia

Enclosures: DIBELS
Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Letter
Interscholastic Sports and Student Accident Insurance English/Spanish
NJ Family Care

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