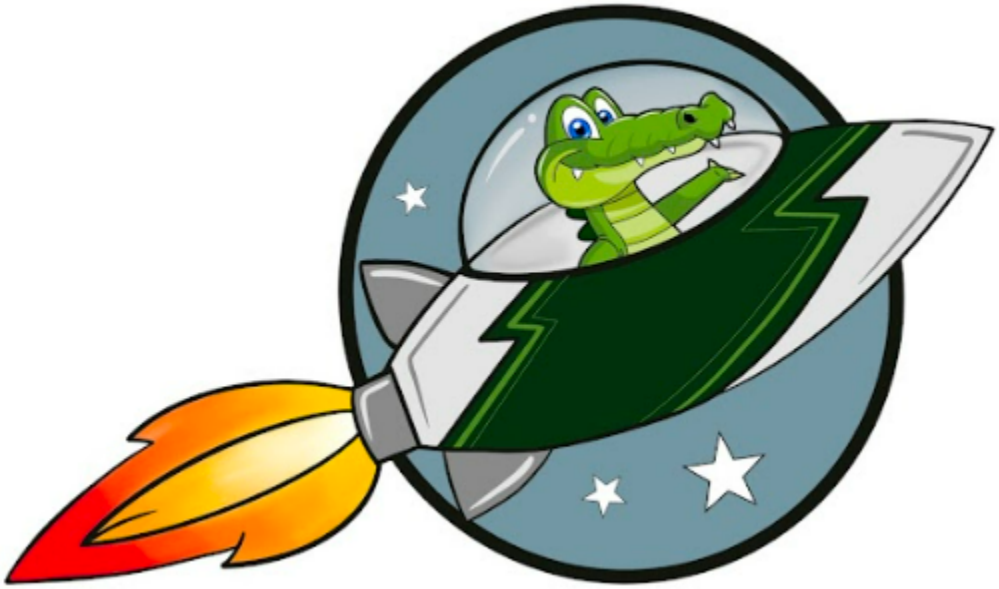
Davenport Ridge Elementary School

Student & Family Handbook

2026 - 2027



Mrs. Sandra Ehlers, Principal
Mrs. Cynthia Manifold Dougherty, Assistant Principal
Ms. Marshall Medley, Assistant Principal for Specialized Instruction

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STAMFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

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CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Mr. Christopher Soules

CHIEF FAMILY AND STAFF RESOURCE OFFICER

Dr. Michael Fernandes

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

TBD

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT - Elementary

Ms. Lisa Saba-Price

Stamford Public Schools Mission Statement

Stamford Public Schools provides an education that cultivates productive habits of mind, body, and heart in every student.

Davenport Ridge School Mission Statement

Davenport Ridge's mission is to provide a learning environment that reflects our diverse school community, inclusive of all students' needs. In addition to providing academic rigor, we encourage students to S.O.A.R., by being mindful and kind beyond the classroom.

Davenport Ridge School Vision Statement

The Davenport Ridge Elementary School Community challenges, inspires, and prepares all students to be responsible citizens who continue their ongoing pursuit of knowledge.

A Message from the Administrative Team

Dear Davenport Ridge Families,

Welcome to Davenport Ridge Elementary School!

This Family Handbook is designed to be your go-to guide for the school year. It outlines essential policies, procedures, and expectations that help us maintain a safe, nurturing, and academically enriching environment for every child. Whether you are joining our community for the first time or returning for another great year, **we ask that you take time to read and become familiar with the contents of this handbook.** Understanding these guidelines ensures that we are all working together seamlessly to support your child's learning journey.

At Davenport Ridge, we take pride in fostering an inclusive environment that celebrates the rich diversity of our school community. Our mission is to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of all learners through rigorous instruction while empowering students to **S.O.A.R.**:

- **S**afety first
- **O**utstanding effort
- **A**ccept responsibility
- **R**espect for all

Our vision guides us to challenge, inspire, and prepare all students to become responsible citizens and lifelong learners. We truly believe that education is most impactful when built on strong, collaborative partnerships between families and educators.

Please keep this handbook accessible so you can refer back to it throughout the year. If you ever have questions or need clarification on any policy, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Your partnership, voice, and involvement are essential to our collective success.

Thank you for being such a vital part of Davenport Ridge. We are thrilled to kick off a wonderful school year and look forward to partnering with you to make it a memorable, inspiring, and growth-filled experience for your child!

Warmly,

Sandra, Cynthia, & Marshell

THE SCHOOL DAY

Davenport Ridge Elementary School students begin their official day at 9:00AM. Students should not arrive at school prior to **8:45 A.M.**, as we have no supervision available prior to that time. The dismissal procedure begins at 3:20. Parents in need of childcare in the morning and/or afternoon may call the on-site ROSCCO program at 203-977-2734 (additional information below).

SCHOOL ARRIVAL

Students should not arrive prior to **8:45 A.M.** unless they are a part of the before school ROSCCO program. (See below for information about ROSCCO). When students arrive they will proceed directly to the cafeteria if they would like to have breakfast (free of charge). Kindergarten teachers will be in the cafeteria to greet their students that artrive in cars. Kindergarten paraeducators will meet the students that arrive by bus and escort them to their classrooms. At 9:00 A.M. all students in the cafeteria will be sent directly to their classrooms. Students in grades 1-5 will walk unescorted to their rooms. Staff are positioned throughout the halls to ensure students arrive safely at their classrooms. Students are tardy if they arrive to their classrooms after 9:05 A.M.

MORNING DROP OFF PROCEDURE

Bus Riders: Students riding the bus will be dropped off in the front of the school. No cars are permitted to pull up to the front of the school prior to 9:00 A.M. Students riding a bus will not be marked tardy if the bus is running late.

Car Riders: For the safety of all students, staff, and families, we ask that all car riders follow the designated drop-off procedure each morning. Car riders must remain in the car line and proceed to the drop-off zone located on the side of the building (cafeteria entrance). Students should not exit their vehicles until their car has come to a complete stop within the marked drop-off zone, where staff members are present to safely supervise students as they exit the car and enter the building.
To keep the line moving efficiently and safely, adults must remain in their vehicles at all times during drop-off. Please make sure students are ready to exit the vehicle when you pull up to the drop-off zone. Staff will be available to assist students as needed. We appreciate your cooperation and patience in helping us maintain a safe and orderly arrival process each day.

Walkers: Students who walk to school are encouraged to do so safely and responsibly. Please review the following safety guidelines with your child:

- Walkers coming from Club Road must use the sidewalk once on school property. Please DO NOT cut across the parking lot.

- Always cross the street at designated crosswalks.
- Use sidewalks whenever possible. If there is no sidewalk, walk single file on the left side of the road facing traffic.
- Do not take shortcuts or cut through private property.
- Never accept rides from anyone without permission from your family.
- Walk directly to and from school without stopping or loitering.

Walkers should plan to arrive no earlier than 8:45 A.M. Upon arrival, students must enter the building through the front entrance.

- Students eating breakfast will proceed to the cafeteria.
- Students not eating breakfast will go directly to their classrooms.

For safety reasons, parents must say goodbye at the front door and are not permitted to enter the building during arrival. Staff will be stationed throughout the building to assist students as needed and ensure a smooth and safe transition into the school day.

AFTERNOON PICK UP PROCEDURE

Bus Riders: Buses pick up students in the front of the school. Only buses are permitted in front of the school. Students who ride the bus, remain in their classroom until their bus is called.

Car Riders: At 3:25 P.M. children are available for parent pick-up in the cafeteria. Cars should pull up to the pick up zone. Please remain in your car. Students will come out of the building from the cafeteria. Staff will be available to supervise and assist students that may need help getting into their cars.

Walkers: Walkers will be dismissed from their classrooms at 3:25P.M. Walkers will be waiting for their designated family member to sign them out at the **Kindergarten rotunda door.** For the safety and efficiency of our dismissal process, **students identified as walkers may not be picked up by car**.

Students in 4th and 5th grade **(ONLY)** will be permitted to walk home independently with written permission from their parents.

Change in usual dismissal routine: If you need to change the way your child is going home on any specific day, you must notify your child's teacher **BEFORE 9:00 A.M.** Any changes that must be

made **after 9:00 A.M., need to be reported to the main office**. Michelle or Melissa will let your child's teacher know about the change.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us ensure a safe and smooth dismissal for all students.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Early Dismissal begins at 1:20 P.M. Please refer to the STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2026-27 CALENDAR. Early dismissal on other days is discouraged since it interrupts class continuity and instruction. If it is absolutely necessary to remove a student prior to 3:30 P.M., the office should be notified as soon as possible. A note should accompany the child to school. Students will be dismissed from the office only. For safety and security reasons, we request that any student requiring early pick-up must be **picked up prior to 2:45 P.M**. This helps prevent interference with the school's established dismissal process and routines, ensuring a smooth and safe end to the school day for all students.

NO-SCHOOL - EARLY CLOSING - DELAYED OPENING (INCLEMENT WEATHER)

Stamford Public Schools uses Parent Link, an automated call-out communications system to notify families of school cancellations/delays and other district wide emergencies. **School administration will also share changes to the school day due to inclement weather through the ParentSquare App.**

Additionally, announcements will be made on the radio and television stations listed below as well as on the district website. Please discuss with your child the procedure he/she should follow in the event no one is at home when dismissal occurs. School closing or early release information is available at: WSTC 1400 AM Radio, Channel 12 News,and www.stamfordpublicschools.org. The following schedule is followed if school is delayed or released early due to weather conditions: Delayed Opening for Davenport is 11:00 A.M. Davenport's Early Release is 1:20 P.M.
Breakfast and lunch are served on Delayed Opening Days and Early Release Days.

ROSCCO

ROSCCO, a before and after-school activity-based program, is available to all students. ROSCCO is fee-based; activities take place primarily in the Davenport cafeteria and gym. The morning program begins at 7:30 am, with drop off at the cafeteria doors. The afternoon program is held from dismissal until 5:30 pm, with pick up at the cafeteria doors. For more information about the ROSCCO program please call the ROSCCO office: (203) 977-2734 or (203) 323-0681.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR ATTENDANCE

Consistent, on-time attendance is essential for student success. Being present in the classroom allows students to fully engage in teacher-directed instruction, collaborative learning, and daily routines, experiences that cannot be fully replicated through makeup work at home.

Excellent attendance sets the foundation for lifelong learning habits. Research from Attendance Works (2023) shows that:

- Students who are chronically absent in **Kindergarten and 1st grade** are less likely to read on grade level by **3rd grade**.
- By **6th grade**, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator of potential high school dropout.

We understand that emergencies and illnesses may occur, and we are committed to supporting families during those times; however, we ask that all families make every effort to ensure their children attend school **every day, on time, and for the full day**.

REPORTING ABSENCES

Parents/guardians must call the school office at (203) 977-4291 or (203) 977-4292 before 9:00 A.M. each day their child is absent. If the school does not receive a call, the absence will be recorded as unexcused.

EXCUSED VS UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

What is an Excused Absence?

Absences are considered *excused* if written documentation is provided and the reason falls into one of the following categories:

- Student illness (doctor's note required for the 10th and subsequent absences)
- Religious holidays
- Death in the family or other family emergency
- Court appearances (with documentation)

Note: According to Connecticut state law, **only ten (10) absences per year** may be excused without additional documentation. After the 10th absence, all additional absences require formal verification (i.e., doctor's note or court papers).

Vacation Absences

Family vacations **must be scheduled** according to the STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2026-27 CALENDAR. Any vacation taken while school is in session will be recorded as an **unexcused absence**. Homework may not be provided in advance for vacation absences, and students are expected to complete any missed work **upon their return**.

WHEN IS A CHILD TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?

To prevent the spread of illness and support recovery, please keep your child home if they are too sick to participate or may be contagious. As a general guideline, your child should stay home for 24 hours if they have:

- A fever over 100.4°F
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- Persistent coughing that interferes with normal activity
- Wheezing or shortness of breath
- Significant pain (e.g., earache, headache, sore throat)
- A contagious illness such as COVID-19, chickenpox, pinkeye, or the flu

If you are unsure, please consult your child's physician or the school nurse.

TARDINESS

Students are considered tardy if they arrive in the classroom **after 9:05 A.M.** All tardy students must stop at the main office to receive a tardy slip before going to class.

Please help your child start their day positively by ensuring they arrive **on time**. Morning routines, announcements, and instructional blocks are critical parts of the school day. Arriving late disrupts both the individual child's experience and the classroom environment.

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

A student is considered **chronically absent** if they miss **10% or more** of the school year, whether absences are excused or unexcused. This is equivalent to **about 18 days per school year or 2 days per month**.

Potential school-level actions for chronic absenteeism include:

- Written monthly notifications

- Ongoing attendance monitoring
- Parent conferences
- Development of a personalized intervention plan
- Consideration for summer school or grade-level retention

TRUANCY

Per Connecticut law (Section 10-198a), a student is considered **truant** if they have:

- **4 unexcused absences in a month**, or
- **10 unexcused absences in a school year**

A student is considered **habitually truant** if they accumulate **20 unexcused absences** in one school year. Truancy cases are reported to the State of Connecticut. In severe or unresolved cases, families may be referred to the **Department of Children and Families (DCF)**.

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

Students with extreme absenteeism (missing 20% or more of the school year) may be required to:

- Attend bi-weekly check-ins with school staff
- Participate in an intervention plan developed with school administrators
- Undergo a home visit by school personnel
- Be considered for summer school or grade-level retention

For students attending Davenport Ridge out of district, chronic tardiness and/or excessive absences may lead to **revocation of enrollment**.

MAKE-UP WORK

- **1-Day Absence:** The teacher will assist your child in making up missed work upon their return.
- **2+ Day Absences:** If your child is well enough to complete work, assignments may be requested when calling to report the absence (before 9:00 A.M.). Materials will be available at the **office counter by 2:30 P.M. on the second day**. If the absence continues, please return completed work when picking up additional materials.

HOW FAMILIES CAN SUPPORT GOOD ATTENDANCE

Parents and guardians play a crucial role in promoting regular school attendance. You can help by:

- Ensuring your child gets enough sleep and is ready for school each day
- Keeping your child home only when truly sick
- Sending written absence notes promptly
- Avoiding scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments during school hours
- Encouraging a positive attitude about school and its importance

Let us work together to help every child attend school **regularly, on time, and ready to learn**, because **every day counts**.

HEALTH SERVICES, ILLNESS & INJURY

The health and safety of our students are top priorities at Davenport Ridge Elementary School. Our full-time registered nurse, Lina Nardi, is available throughout the school day to support student health needs.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

At the start of each school year, families are required to complete an Emergency Information Form and return it to the classroom teacher. It is essential that the nurse and main office have current contact information. Contact information should be updated in your parent portal. Families should also provide at least one additional emergency contact who is able to pick up a student if needed.

WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME

Students who are sick or showing signs of illness should not attend school. If a student becomes ill during the day, parents/guardians will be contacted and asked to pick up the child promptly.
Students should stay home for at least 24 hours if they have any of the following:

- A fever over 100.4°F
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Coughing that disrupts normal activity
- Wheezing or shortness of breath
- Severe pain (headache, earache, sore throat, injury)
- A contagious illness (such as flu, COVID-19, pinkeye, chickenpox, etc.)

Please contact your child's physician or the school nurse if you are unsure whether your child should attend school.

ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES

- Minor injuries will be treated with appropriate first aid.
- For serious injuries, parents/guardians will be contacted immediately.
- In an emergency, 911 will be called and, if needed, the child will be transported to the hospital. If a parent cannot be reached, the child's physician will be contacted as listed on the Emergency Information Form.
- All accidents occurring on school property or on the way to/from school must be reported to the school nurse. If your child is covered under the district's student accident insurance, you may request claim forms from the nurse's office.

RECESS AND WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

Recess is part of the state-mandated school day, and students are expected to participate unless medically excused. Children should come to school dressed appropriately for the weather, including coats, hats, and gloves during cold months. A written note from a physician is required to excuse a student from recess. Students not dressed appropriately for the weather may be required to remain indoors during recess for their safety.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Connecticut State Law requires that all medications, including over-the-counter medications, be administered only with:

- A physician's or dentist's written order
- Written authorization from the parent or guardian

All medications must be in original, pharmacy-prepared containers and clearly labeled with:

- Student's name
- Medication name and dosage
- Frequency and method of administration
- Prescribing doctor's name

- Date of the original prescription

- All required forms are available in the nurse's office or on the CT State Department of Health website

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Our school nurse conducts the following state-mandated screenings:

- Vision and hearing (for applicable grades)
- Scoliosis screening (for applicable grades)
- Monitoring of immunization compliance
- Coordination of physical exams as needed

If you have any questions or need assistance with health-related concerns, please contact Nurse Lina Nardi directly at 203-977-4295.

VISITOR POLICY AND OFFICE SIGN-IN

All visitors must enter the building through the main entrance at the front of the school. Upon arrival, visitors should press the buzzer located to the right of the entrance doors. A member of the main office staff will respond and ask the visitor to state their name and purpose for visiting.

All visitors are required to proceed **directly to the main office to sign in**. If the school security guard is present at the front desk, he will assist in ensuring visitors report to the office upon entry.

Visitors planning to enter any area beyond the main office, including classrooms, must:

- Present a valid form of identification

- Obtain a printed visitor pass

- Wear the visitor badge at all times while in the building

- All classroom visits must be arranged in advance with the classroom teacher

All guests, including parents and guardians, must sign in and out at the main office. This procedure is in place to help maintain a safe and secure environment for all students and staff.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

At Davenport Ridge, we believe that how students dress can influence how they feel and perform at school. All students are expected to dress appropriately for a learning environment, one that promotes safety, respect, and a focus on education.

Clothing choices should:

- Be modest and in good taste
- Avoid distractions to the learning environment
- Not pose a safety or health risk
- Reflect the serious business of learning

It is the responsibility of families to support and uphold the dress expectations outlined below.

STUDENT DRESS CODE GUIDELINES

To maintain a safe and respectful school environment, the following expectations apply:

1. **Hats and hoods** may not be worn inside the school building.
   (Note: Religious head coverings are always permitted.)
2. **Shoes must have backs or back straps.**
   For safety reasons, **flip-flops, slides, or loose sandals are not allowed.**
3. Clothing with vulgar, inappropriate language or graphics is not allowed.
4. Backpacks must remain in classrooms throughout the school day.

If a student's attire is found to be unsuitable for school, a parent or guardian will be contacted to provide a change of clothes. Our goal is to work in partnership with families to ensure all students are dressed in a way that supports their success at school.

Stamford Public Schools Policy Handbook

At Davenport Ridge, our Family Handbook includes shortened versions of policies aligned with Stamford Public Schools. For more detailed and comprehensive information on student dress and other policies, we encourage families to consult the Stamford Public Schools Policy Handbook.

SAFETY

COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

The physical and emotional safety of all students, staff, and families is a top priority at Davenport Ridge. We are committed to maintaining a secure and supportive school environment where every member of our community feels safe and respected.

SCHOOL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Parents and staff are highly encouraged to join the Davenport Ridge School Safety Committee, which meets three to four times to discuss important topics such as our school safety plan, emergency drills, and building security. Meetings are held online via Google Meet at 8:00 A.M. on Friday mornings. Representatives from the Stamford Police and Fire Departments also participate in these meetings.

2026 - 2027 Meeting Dates: TBD

Meeting Link: *TBD – will be shared with parents in advance of each meeting*

SAFETY DRILLS

To ensure that students and staff are prepared for emergencies, we conduct monthly safety drills throughout the school year in accordance with state law and district policy.

- **Fire Drills**: Students are expected to exit the building quickly, quietly, and safely using the posted route. Teachers accompany their students and signal when it is safe to return.

- **Secure School Drill:** Davenport Ridge Elementary implements a Secure School to maximize the safety of students and staff from external dangers like police activity, extreme weather, or chemical spills. This protocol involves securing occupants within the building for a period of time. Staff and students are free to walk around the building as usual. No one is permitted outside.

- **Shelter in Place:** Davenport Ridge Elementary implements Shelter in Place when it's necessary to keep hallways clear for emergency responders, most commonly during medical emergencies. During a Shelter in Place, movement within the building is restricted, but classroom instruction continues.

- **Lockdown Drills**: These drills are designed to prepare students and staff for a potential emergency within or around the building. **Parents will be notified** when a lockdown drill has occurred.

- **Emergency Preparedness**: In collaboration with city officials, Davenport Ridge has developed comprehensive safety plans for a range of emergency scenarios including, but not limited to: intruders, hazardous materials, severe weather, and other critical incidents.

PLAYGROUND SAFETY AND EXPECTATIONS

All students are expected to follow the Six Pillars of Character and demonstrate **safe, respectful, and responsible behavior** during recess. To ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment, the following playground rules are in place:

1. Follow all game rules and play fairly.
2. Tackle football is not allowed.
3. Blocking is not permitted during touch football.
4. Slide tackling is not allowed in soccer.
5. Piggyback riding is not permitted.
6. Respectful language used at all times.
7. Pick up equipment on the way to recess.
8. Stay on the playground unless given permission to leave.
9. Always demonstrate good sportsmanship.
10. Use swings and equipment safely, only one child per swing, and no holding hands while swinging.
11. Roughhousing is not allowed.
12. Use all playground equipment appropriately and safely.

By working together, we can ensure a safe and positive environment for all students at Davenport Ridge.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

At Davenport Ridge, we believe that **open and ongoing communication** between home and school is essential to student success. We are committed to keeping families informed and involved throughout the school year using a variety of tools and methods.

NEWSLETTERS & CLASSROOM COMMUNICATION

Classroom teachers stay in regular contact with families through newsletters, emails and ParentSquare. These communications provide updates about classroom activities, learning goals, and important reminders.

The Building Administration will also be sending home a weekly Family Newsletter. This will be shared through Parent Square usually by Tuesday of each week.

Parent-teacher conferences are held twice a year (**October 14 - 16 and February 10 - 12**) to discuss your child's academic and social progress. We encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher or any staff member at any time if you have questions or concerns. Our doors are always open.

PARENTSQUARE APP

SPS is excited to introduce the **ParentSquare App** as an additional method of communication for the 2026 - 2027 school year. This app is already used in many districts and offers a simple, efficient way to stay informed. Parents can receive school updates, reminders, and direct messages from teachers and school staff all in one place, via text, email, or app notification.

By adopting ParentSquare, we aim to provide consistency and ease of use for families who may have children in multiple schools. Please click on the link below to sign in to your account:

https://www.parentsquare.com/signin

EMAIL COMMUNICATION

Email is a fast and efficient way to connect with teachers and staff. While phone calls or in-person conversations may be needed for more detailed discussions, email is often ideal for quick questions or updates.

To contact any staff member by email, use the format:

[first initial][last name]@stamfordpublicschools.org
Example: sehlers@stamfordpublicschools.org

Teachers and staff are expected to check their email daily and will respond within 24 hours.

TELEPHONE

To protect valuable instructional time, we limit classroom interruptions. **Students will only receive phone calls or messages in emergency situations.** Students may use the office phone when absolutely necessary.

Students are not permitted to use cell phones during the school day. If they bring a cell phone to school, it **MUST remain turned off and in your child's backpack at all times.** This includes **ANY AND ALL electronic devices** that are used as two-way communication, including, but not limited to **smart watches** and tablets.

The main office is open and staffed from **8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.** If there is an emergency, our office staff will deliver your message to your child as needed.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

The Davenport Ridge Website is an important resource for school updates, calendars, and teacher contact information. You can also use the website to email teachers and staff directly.

We value strong communication and partnership with families. When home and school work together, students thrive both academically and emotionally. Please don't hesitate to reach out, we are here to support your child's success every step of the way.

STUDENT INFORMATION AND EMERGENCY PARENT CONTACT

The Parent Portal is the SPS online platform with information about class assignments, buses, and report cards.

Please contact the main office if you need assistance in accessing the portal. It is essential that emergency contact information in the Parent Portal is up to date. ***If any contact information changes at any point throughout the year, please update the portal.*** Please try to have multiple emergency contacts and a pick-up plan in case your child needs to be picked up during the school day. Adults picking up children need to bring a form of photo identification.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

At Davenport Ridge, we value the vital partnership between home and school. When parents, caregivers, and community members are actively involved, students thrive both academically and socially. We welcome and encourage your participation in all aspects of school life.

Parent Engagement

- **Your Voice Matters:**
  We believe parents and guardians are essential partners in education. Your insights into your child's interests, strengths, and needs are not only welcomed, they are actively sought out and carefully considered by teachers and school staff.

- **Communication and Progress:**
  All families will receive clear and regular updates on their child's academic and social-emotional progress. We are committed to maintaining open lines of communication throughout the year.

- **Shared Responsibility:**
  The success of our students is enhanced when schools and families work together. Setting a

strong example of interest, involvement, and support at home reinforces the importance of education.

Visiting Davenport Ridge

Parents and community members are always welcome in our school. To ensure a safe and productive environment for everyone:

- All visitors must report to the main office upon arrival, sign in, and wear a visitor badge at all times.
- Classroom observations and visits must be arranged in advance with the teacher. This helps avoid visits during testing or other sensitive classroom activities.

Volunteer Program

The Davenport Ridge PTO plays a major role in enriching our school community through volunteer efforts, fundraising, and family engagement. Volunteers support a variety of activities, including:

- Classroom and school events
- PTO committees and initiatives
- Room parent/guardian support
- Library and Book Fair assistance
- Field trip chaperoning

If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Mrs. Sandra Ehlers, Mrs. Cynthia Manifold Dougherty or your child's teacher. All volunteers must complete a volunteer application and sign in at the main office. You will receive a badge, which must be worn the entire time you are in the building. Please return the badge to the office when you leave.

Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)

Our PTO is a vibrant and active group that promotes family involvement, school spirit, and enrichment opportunities for all students. The PTO:

- Organizes school-wide events and fundraisers
- Coordinates volunteer opportunities
- Fosters strong school-home communication
- Supports educational enrichment and special programs

We encourage all families to get involved! Joining the PTO is a great way to connect with other families and support your child's school experience.

The PTO Events Calendar can be found here

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair, held each September and April, is a beloved event at Davenport Ridge. Sponsored by the PTO, the fair offers a wide selection of books designed to foster a love of reading and support lifelong literacy.

Field Trips

Field trips are carefully selected to complement and enhance classroom learning. Parents will receive advance notice of all trips, and written permission is required for students to participate.

CURRICULUM

A strong curriculum assists Davenport Ridge teachers in meeting the needs of each student more effectively by prioritizing and defining essential learning targets in measurable terms and providing the formative assessment tools needed to diagnose and monitor student learning. Strong written curriculum also promotes equity by clarifying for teachers what on-level learning looks like.
At Davenport Ridge Elementary School, our curriculum is aligned with the Connecticut State Standards, which define clear and measurable learning targets that outline what students should know and be able to do by the end of each grade level. For more information, visit SPS PreK-5 Curriculum

READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS

Davenport Ridge follows the science of reading through a structured literacy model.

Grades K-2:

- A 45-minute block of foundational reading instruction using Magnetic Reading
- An additional hour daily for knowledge building with vocabulary and comprehension through CKLA
- Small group instruction based on student needs

Grades 3-5:

- A 2 hour literacy block focused on critical thinking, knowledge building with vocabulary and comprehension through CKLA

- Tiered support for foundational reading when needed

All instruction addresses the five pillars of reading:

- Phonological Awareness
- Phonics
- Vocabulary
- Reading Fluency
- Comprehension

Data dives are conducted several times a year to ensure targeted instruction is provided based on student needs.

NEW WRITING PROGRAM - K-5

Empowering Writers is a research-based methodology that provides assured experiences for all learners. It connects literature to introduce a writing skill, models the thought processes of an author, uses guided practice with explicit foundational skills, and applies these skills. The lessons are designed to teach the skills K-5 students need to read and comprehend deeply.

MATH

Grades K-2: Beginning in the 2025–2026 school year, grades K-2 implemented the iReady Math program. This comprehensive, research-based program is designed to build conceptual understanding, develop procedural fluency, and foster problem-solving skills. Key components of iReady Math include:

- Diagnostic assessments to personalize learning
- Data-driven small group instruction
- Real-world math application and practice
- Scaffolded lessons that build math confidence and independence

Grades 3-5: Beginning in the 2026–2027 school year, grades 3-5 will implement the iReady Math program. This comprehensive, research-based program is designed to build conceptual understanding, develop procedural fluency, and foster problem-solving skills. Key components of iReady Math include:

- Diagnostic assessments to personalize learning
- Data-driven small group instruction
- Real-world math application and practice
- Scaffolded lessons that build math confidence and independence

HOMEWORK

Homework is an important extension of classroom learning. It reinforces skills, promotes independence, and builds responsibility. Assignments may serve as review, extension, or enrichment of material covered in class and should never be punitive.

Time Guidelines:

- Kindergarten: None required
- Grade 1: 10-15 minutes
- Grade 2: 20-30 minutes
- Grade 3: 30-45 minutes
- Grade 4: 45 minutes to 1 hour
- Grade 5: 1 hour

If a student is working conscientiously and still unable to complete the homework in the allotted time, a parent may send a note to the teacher. Students will not be penalized and may receive additional time.

Students are expected to:

- Complete homework to the best of their ability
- Submit all assignments on time
- Make up missed assignments after an absence

Parents can support their child's success by:

- Making homework a priority
- Providing a quiet space and time for homework
- Offering encouragement and contacting the teacher if problems arise

Note: All students should read (or be read to) for at least 20 minutes daily.

SPECIALS

Physical Education: Focuses on skill development, physical fitness, and responsible behavior. Sneakers are required. A doctor's note is needed to be excused for more than two consecutive classes.

Art: Students explore drawing, sculpture, crafts, and various materials to express creativity.

Music: Includes singing, instrument playing, movement, and music appreciation. All students in grades 4 and 5 participate in chorus. Instrumental instruction begins in grade 4.

Library Media Center: The LMC is the hub of the school. Students visit regularly. There are no fines for overdue books, but payment is required for lost or damaged items.

REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

At Davenport Ridge, we are committed to keeping families informed and involved in their child's academic progress.

Progress Reports

Progress Reports are issued **three times a year** and are accessible through the **Parent Portal**. Teachers will communicate with families **throughout the year** . Parents are encouraged to reach out to their child's teacher at any time with questions or concerns.

Updated Conference Schedule

- **Fall Conferences:**
  - **October 14-16, 2026**

- **Winter Conferences:**
  - **February 10-12, 2027**

These new dates will allow teachers to:

- Discuss students' early progress and transition to a new grade level in October
- Review benchmark assessment results at the beginning and middle of the year
- Collaborate with families to support students in reaching their end-of-year academic goals

We value the home-school partnership and believe these earlier conferences will provide timely and meaningful opportunities to support each child's success.

SPECIAL SERVICES

MultiLingual Learners (ML): Instruction in social and academic English is provided by certified ML teachers. Spanish bilingual support is also available.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS): A data-driven approach to addressing academic and social/emotional needs. Led by MTSS Coach, Ms. Anne Langschultz, the intervention team supports classroom teachers. Parents may request intervention.

Special Education Services: Includes academic support, speech/language therapy, occupational and physical therapy, and counseling. Contact Assistant Principals Cynthia Manifold Dougherty or Marshell Medley with questions.

DISTRICT AND STATE ASSESSMENTS

- **iReady Reading:** Grades K-5 (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- **iReady Math:** Grades K-5 (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- **Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA):** Grades 3-5 (Spring)
- **NGSS Science Assessment:** Grade 5 (Spring)

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Davenport Ridge Elementary actively partners with various organizations throughout Stamford to extend support and services to our students beyond school hours. We work most closely with the **Boys & Girls Club, Yerwood Center, Jewish Community Center, and Building One Community**. Some school events are held at these community centers, fostering a strong connection between our school and the wider community. Please note that these are key partnerships, and we may collaborate with other organizations throughout the year to best meet our students' needs.

DAVENPORT RIDGE'S SCHOOL CLIMATE

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES AND SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

At Davenport Ridge, we are committed to fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment. All staff members actively teach and reinforce clear rules, expectations, and routines to support a climate that enables all students to thrive.

We help students understand that their actions have logical consequences, both positive and negative. When misbehavior occurs, we view it as an opportunity for growth and learning. Through restorative practices, we guide students in taking responsibility for their actions, repairing harm, and restoring relationships.

Examples of restorative practices include:

- Reflective conversations or written reflections
- Apology letters or verbal apologies
- Replacing or repairing damaged items
- Restorative conferences involving all parties

Consequences for misbehavior are tailored to the situation and may include:

- Student-teacher conferences
- Written reflections or apologies of action
- Phone calls or meetings with parents/guardians
- Loss of privileges
- Lunch or after-school detention
- In-school or out-of-school suspension
- Other disciplinary measures as deemed appropriate by school staff or administrators

We work diligently to ensure that all students feel physically and emotionally safe. Students are expected to treat others with kindness and respect, keep hands, feet, and objects to themselves, and use appropriate language at all times.

BULLYING PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Bullying of any kind is strictly prohibited and taken very seriously at Davenport Ridge. All staff, families, and community members are **mandated to report suspected bullying** in writing to the school administration.

When an incident is reported, school administrators conduct a thorough investigation. If it is determined that bullying has occurred, the parents/guardians of all involved students will be notified. The foundation of bullying prevention is a **positive school climate**, which we promote through:

- Character strength education
- School-wide assemblies and programs
- Classroom discussions and activities
- Explicit teaching of behavioral expectations
- Restorative interventions

When proactive efforts are not successful in preventing bullying, appropriate disciplinary actions are taken in alignment with Stamford Public Schools policies and Connecticut State law.

If you believe your child is being bullied, please contact a school administrator immediately so we can address the situation with urgency and care.

The full board policy on bullying can be viewed here

TRANSPORTATION

BUS RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

Riding the school bus is a privilege, and all students are expected to behave appropriately to ensure a safe and respectful environment for all passengers.

Bus Safety and Behavior Rules:

1. **Follow the Driver's Directions:** The bus driver has full authority over the bus and students must follow their instructions at all times.
2. **Assigned Bus Only:** Students may only ride their assigned bus. A written request signed by a parent/guardian must be submitted and approved by the principal for exceptions (for child care purposes only).
3. **Arrival at Bus Stop:** Students should arrive at their assigned stop at least five minutes before the published pick-up time and remain in clear view of the driver.
4. **Boarding and Exiting:** Students must use the front door to enter and exit the bus (except in emergencies) and do so in a calm, orderly fashion.
5. **Bus Stops:** Students may only exit the bus at their designated stop or at school.
6. **Windows and Safety:** Windows may only be opened with the driver's permission. Students must keep hands, heads, and objects inside the bus at all times.
7. **Behavior Expectations:** Loud talking, profanity, rowdy behavior, or conversations with the driver while the bus is moving are prohibited. Students must treat the bus and peers with respect.
8. **Keep Aisles Clear:** All items must be stored safely and out of the bus aisles. Items may not be placed near the driver's area.
9. **No Dangerous Items:** Hazardous items (e.g., water pistols, knives) are not allowed on the bus.
10. **Stay Seated:** Students must remain seated while the bus is in motion.

Potential Consequences for Student Misconduct

Any violation of the above rules will be reported to school administration. Students may face disciplinary consequences, including loss of bus privileges. Parents/guardians will be notified of all incidents and related consequences.

Accident Procedures

In the event of a bus accident, students must:

- Follow the driver's instructions.
- Remain calm and orderly.
- Exit the bus safely, if directed.
- Stay away from the road and wait for further instructions.

Bus Route Information

- Bus assignments are available on the Parent Portal during the last week of August.
- Questions about your child's bus route can be directed to:
    - **First Student Transportation:** (203) 325-8538
    - **Stamford Public Schools Transportation Office:** (203) 977-4248

All buses drop off and pick up students in front of the building. **Do not stop or park in the bus lane at any time.**

Students under **seven years old** must have a parent/guardian or authorized adult present at their bus stop. If no one is there, the student will remain on the bus and be returned to Davenport or to First Student (124 Selleck Street) for parent pickup.
To request bus stop changes, contact the **SPS Transportation Office.**

General Reminders

- Student behavior expectations on the bus and at the bus stop are the same as in school.
- Bus incidents should be reported to the main office as soon as possible so they can be addressed promptly.

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAMS

All Davenport Ridge students will continue to receive free breakfast for the 2026 - 2027 school year, as part of Stamford Public Schools' participation in the National School Lunch Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

MEAL SERVICE DETAILS

- Breakfast is available to all students upon entry to the school each day.
- Hot lunch and daily alternatives are offered to every student.
- Menus for breakfast and lunch are available online through Stamford Public Schools' website:

  ➤ SPS Breakfast & Lunch Menus 26-27

FREE & REDUCED MEAL PRICES

Students will have to pay for lunch in 2026-27. Breakfast will continue to be free for all students.

Families may qualify for their students to receive free or reduced-price lunch.

To qualify, families must complete an application.

Only one application per household is required. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year if a family's circumstances change.

All information provided is kept confidential.

Go to www.myschoolapps.com to apply.

PAYING FOR SCHOOL LUNCH

- Families will need to pay for school lunches in 2026-27.
  - Elementary: $3
  - Secondary: $4
- Breakfast will remain available for FREE for all students.
- Parents can set up an online payment account through MySchoolBucks. To create an account go to myschoolbucks.com or download the mobile app.
- Students may also pay in cash at the cafeteria register.

HEALTHY SNACKS

Classroom teachers provide a designated snack time each day for students. We encourage families to send nutritious snacks that support student focus and energy throughout the day.

Recommended Healthy Snacks Include:

- Fresh fruit or vegetables
- Hard-boiled eggs
- Whole grain crackers
- Yogurt
- Pretzels
- Popcorn
- Cheese

Please do not send candy, gum, or soda, as these items are not allowed in school.

Healthy snacks help fuel healthy minds. Thank you for supporting our efforts to promote wellness at Davenport Ridge!

STAMFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION WELLNESS POLICY

In alignment with the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-265 Section 204), the Stamford Board of Education adopted a district-wide wellness policy to support student health and well-being through nutrition and physical activity.

GOALS OF THE WELLNESS POLICY

- Influence lifelong healthy eating and activity habits.
- Integrate nutrition education across subject areas.
- Provide opportunities for students to practice wellness skills in fun and engaging ways.

KEY COMPONENTS

1. School meals comply with all federal, state, and local nutrition regulations.

2. All food and beverages available during the school day (including in the cafeteria, vending machines, celebrations, and fundraisers) align with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
3. Menu planning incorporates student, parent, and staff input and reflects cultural diversity.
4. Food safety and security guidelines are followed at all times.
5. Meals are accessible to all students.
6. Nutrition education is age-appropriate and integrated into the curriculum.
7. The cafeteria environment is safe, comfortable, and welcoming, with adequate time and space for students to eat.
8. Food and physical activity are not used as punishment or reward.
9. Information about nutrition is shared with families to encourage healthy habits at home.
10. Students are encouraged to engage in meaningful physical activity that connects to their lives beyond physical education class.
11. All school-based activities must be consistent with the district wellness policy.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- Federal Public Law: PL 108.265 Section 204
- Connecticut General Statutes: Sections 10-215b-1 and 10-215-23

DAILY RECESS POLICY

At Davenport Ridge, we believe that recess is an essential part of a well-rounded school day. Alongside quality physical education, daily recess supports students' physical health, social development, and emotional well-being.

Recess provides children with the opportunity to:

- Engage in unstructured play
- Make choices and develop social skills
- Practice cooperation and conflict resolution
- Release energy and reduce stress
- Reinforce physical skills introduced in PE

RECESS GUIDELINES

- All elementary students receive 20 minutes of supervised recess daily.
- Recess takes place outdoors whenever weather permits.

- Students are encouraged to participate in moderate to vigorous physical activity.
- Age-appropriate equipment and safe, inclusive spaces are provided to ensure all students can enjoy recess.
- Students with special physical or cognitive needs will receive appropriate accommodations and support to ensure equitable access to physical activity.

Note: Recess is not a substitute for physical education and will not be withheld for academic or disciplinary reasons except when student safety is a concern.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthday celebrations are a special part of a child's school experience. If you choose to celebrate your child's birthday at school, please **contact the classroom teacher in advance** to make arrangements.

To ensure celebrations are safe, inclusive, and aligned with health protocols, the following guidelines must be followed:

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION GUIDELINES

1. **Timing:**
   A short celebration (approximately 10 minutes) may take place during the school day at a time determined by the teacher to minimize disruption to instruction.
2. **Food and Treats:**
   - Due to food allergies and health and safety protocols, homemade treats are not permitted.
   - Any treats shared must be store-bought, individually packaged, and clearly labeled with ingredients.
   - Please limit treats to one per student.
   - Please - **No goody bags.**
   - No candy, gum, or soda is permitted.
3. **Drop-Off Option:**
   Parents may drop off birthday treats at the main office. A staff member will deliver them to the classroom, and the teacher will choose an appropriate time for the celebration.
4. **In-Class Option:**
   If a parent wishes to visit the classroom for the celebration, they must:
   - Coordinate with the teacher at least 24 hours in advance.

- Agree on a specific time that fits within the instructional schedule.
- Ensure the main office is informed of the visit and that the teacher is expecting the parent.
- Avoid decorations, such as balloons, please.

5. **Allergies and Dietary Restrictions:**
   Teachers must consult with the school nurse to ensure any food brought into the classroom is safe for all students.

TECHNOLOGY

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students are not permitted to use personal electronic devices (**cell phones, tablets, smart watches, etc.**) during the school day. These items must remain **turned off and stored in backpacks** from arrival until dismissal. If a student uses a device during the school day:

- The device will be confiscated and held in the main office.
- It will be returned only to a parent or guardian.

The school is not responsible for investigating the loss or damage of any personal electronic devices. If you need to reach your child during the day, please contact the main office directly.

CELL PHONE AND INTERNET DEVICE POLICY

In alignment with the Stamford Board of Education's updated policy:

- Students may not use cell phones or internet-connected devices during the school day.
- Devices used without permission may be confiscated and held until a parent picks them up.

CHROMEBOOKS

- **Students in Grades 3–5** will each be issued a district-provided Chromebook for use during the school day, once a parent/guardian signs the Acceptable Use Agreement.
- **Students in Grades K–2** will have access to 5–7 shared Chromebooks per classroom.
- **All Chromebooks will remain at school** unless special permission is granted by administration or the Multimedia Specialist (MMS) for specific projects.

INTERNET AND COMPUTER USE

Acceptable Use of Technology

Access to Stamford Public Schools' technology resources is a privilege, not a right. Students must:

- Use all computers and digital devices responsibly and respectfully.
- Follow the district's Acceptable Use Policy.
- Sign the Acceptable Internet Use Agreement (with a parent/guardian signature for students under 18).

Inappropriate behaviors that may result in loss of technology privileges and/or disciplinary action include:

- Harassing, threatening, or intimidating communications
- Accessing unauthorized or inappropriate sites
- Damaging or tampering with hardware or software
- Using someone else's account or password
- Sending confidential or copyrighted materials without permission

The Stamford Public Schools monitors student internet use and may access and review usage at any time.

INTERNET SAFETY AND FILTERING

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA):

- Internet access on school devices is filtered to block inappropriate or harmful content.
- Filtering is not a substitute for supervision. Teachers and staff provide oversight to ensure internet use is appropriate and safe.
- Students will be taught how to use the internet responsibly, including how to report inappropriate content or messages.

VIRTUAL LEARNING AND DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Technology allows students to take "virtual field trips," explore global resources, and engage in collaborative learning. Students are expected to:

- Use technology to enhance learning
- Represent themselves and Davenport Ridge positively
- Practice digital citizenship and internet safety

SOFTWARE USE

Students may not download or copy software from district devices. All software is licensed and owned by the district.

MEDIA PERMISSIONS

Each year, families will be asked to sign a media release giving or denying permission for the school, district, or local media to publish student photos or work.
If you have questions about your child's access to technology or internet safety, please contact the school administration or Multimedia Specialist (MMS).

DAVENPORT RIDGE PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD
2026 - 2027

Board Position	Board Member
Co-Presidents	Hana Mosa-Povetz
	Christine English
Vice President, Fundraising and Events	Lauren Katz
	Rica Hermosura
	Adriana Feuchter
	Luisa Alfaro
Treasurers	Kim Bloom, Leah Kagan
Secretary	Amanda Haggerty
Communications	Erin McKay
	Christina Grant
Yearbook Manager	Nicole Nieves
Membership Toolkit Manager	Eva Vargas
Administration	Sandra Ehlers
	Cynthia Manifold Dougherty

PTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENT	MONTH
Kindergarten playdate	*Aug 19, 2026*
Back to school movie night	*Sep 25, 2026*
Half-Day movie	*September, October, January, March, April, May*
Fall Book Fair	*September 22-25*
Picture Day	*Oct 8, 2026*
Pink Out	*Oct 9, 2026*
Fall Festival	*Oct 16, 2026*
Pasta night	*Oct 21, 2026*
Jog-a-Thon	*Oct 22, 2026*
Halloween Parade	*Oct 30, 2026*
Fall BINGO	*Dec 3, 2026*
Gator Alley	*December*
Sweetheart dance	*February 5, 2027*
Spring BINGO	*March 11, 2027*
Spring Bookfair	*April 19-24, 2027*
Spring silent auction	*March/April*
Staff appreciation week	*May 3-7, 2027*
Spring Fling	*May 7, 2027*
Summer sendoff	*June 4, 2027*