School Information for Parents
Welcome

This book will help you to understand what you need to know about your child’s school. You should ask for more information about all of the items in this book.

Here are some important words to know:

**Attendance**
School attendance is required by law and is held on Monday through Friday for children ages 5-21. School attendance is not required during teacher meetings, school recesses, and national holidays. Sometimes school is cancelled due to bad weather.

**Grade Level**
Every child is placed in a grade, Kindergarten through 12th grade. Grade assignment is based on the age of the child and a grade level placement assessment.

**Principal**
The principal is in charge of the school. The principal would like to meet all of the parents.

**Teacher**
Every child has at least one teacher. Teachers want to help children and meet the parents. Children should be encouraged to respect their teachers. Call or visit the school to schedule a meeting with teachers.
Counselor
A school counselor or Social Worker will help your child in school. Parents can meet with the counselor or Social Worker any time.

Nurse
Some schools have a nurse who can answer questions about health and required immunizations.

School Events
Attend school meetings, parent-teacher conferences, and school events. Open House events are for parents to visit the school and take a tour. Parent-Teacher Conferences are for parents to meet privately with teachers. Family events include sports, theater, music, dances, Science activities, and field trips.

Welcome!
Schools are busy places and there is a lot for children to learn! Ask a lot of questions, using this book as a guide.
Parents are Welcome

- Parents are welcome in the school!
- Ask if you can talk to your child’s teachers.
- Talk to the guidance counselor about your child’s future.
Schools

- Schools are separated into 3 levels.
- Ask where your child will be enrolled in school.

**Elementary School**  
(Ages 5-13)  
*Grades Kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5*

**Middle School**  
(Ages 12-15)  
*Grades 6, 7, 8*

**High School**  
(Ages 14-21)  
*Grades 9, 10, 11, 12*
School Supplies

Ask about supplies that your child may need for school.
School Schedules

- Ask for a school calendar so you know when the school is closed.
- Ask about your child’s daily schedule.
- Find out when there are school events for parents.
Attendance in Schools

- Your child must go to school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- Find out when the school day begins and ends.
- Sometimes schools are closed because of bad weather.
- Watch the television, listen to the radio, or call the school to check if your school is closed.
- Call the school when your child will arrive late, leave early, or can’t go to school due to illness.
Transportation to School

- Ask about the type of transportation your child will take to school.
- Your child may be able to walk to school if the school is nearby.
- Ask for a bus schedule.
- Find out the bus or subway number.
- Find out the bus or subway stop.
School Lunch

- Lunch may be served every day in school.
- Breakfast may also be served.
- Your child can bring food from home or buy a school lunch.
- Ask how to apply for the free breakfast and lunch program.
Testing in School

• Your child’s teacher might give a test to see what your child is learning.
• The teacher will tell your child when to study for a test.
• Talk to the teacher about test results.
Safety in Schools

- Safety is important in schools.
- Your child’s school will do
  - fire drills
  - lock-down drills
  - evacuation drills
- Tell your child that this “drill” is a practice and that they shouldn’t be afraid.
- There may be an alarm or school announcement.
- Your child should listen to school staff and follow directions.
Safety in Schools

- NEVER bring weapons to school - even if they are toys.
- No fighting in school!
- No drugs or alcohol in school!
Parents - Ask About

School Attendance

School Absence

Year Schedule

Daily Schedule

Teachers

English Instruction
Guidance Counselors

School Tests

Tutoring

Physical Education

Recess

After-School Activities