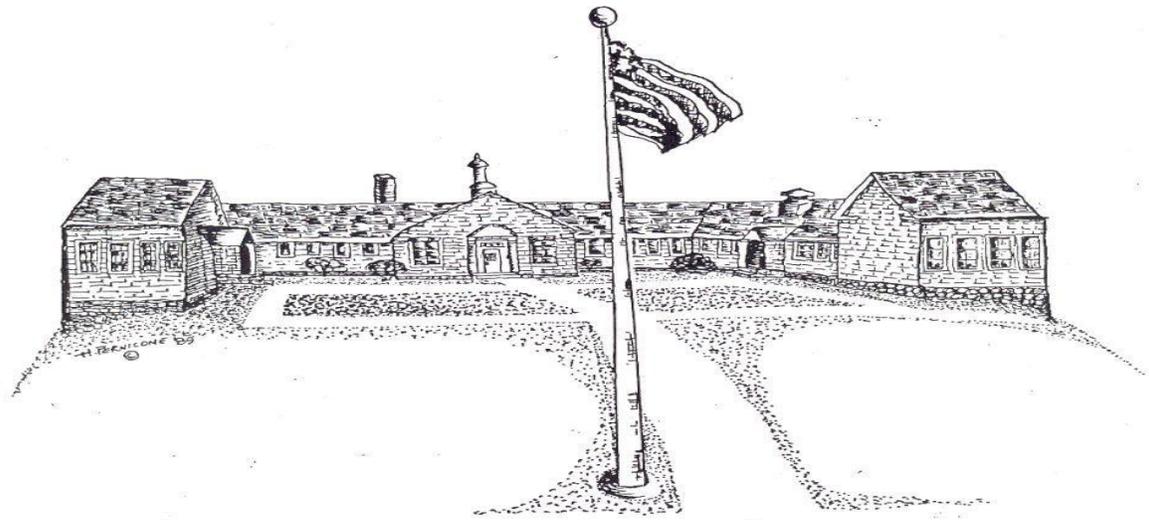


PEACE DALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2021-2022 Parent Handbook



*Peace Dale School
Peace Dale, Rhode Island*

109 Kersey Road, Peace Dale, Rhode Island 02879

Phone: (401)360-1600

Fax: (401)360-1601

Website: pdschools.net

HISTORY OF PEACE DALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The first Peace Dale Elementary School, built in 1854, was a one-room building. The school was built on land donated by Isaac Peace Hazard in 1922. Thirty thousand dollars, which was appropriated by the town, along with additional contributions from the Hazard family, allowed for the construction of a new school.

The brick building with slate roof consisted of two wings facing a courtyard, connected at the north by an assembly hall. The west wing had five rooms and housed older students, while younger children studied in the four rooms of the east wing.

The school library and cafeteria were located in the basement below the west wing. This building was dedicated on Saturday, September 8, 1923.

Peace Dale Elementary School has since undergone major additions; however the original facade, including brick exterior and slate roof, remain intact. The school presently has a full size gymnasium, a centrally located media center, a computer lab, and thirty classrooms. The school has the potential of accommodating 625 students with approximately 430 children presently enrolled.

Although this once little schoolhouse has undergone significant alterations, the spirit of enthusiasm and commitment for learning and teaching remains intact. Peace Dale Elementary School continues to strive to reach each and every child that walks through its doors.

WELCOME to PEACE DALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parental involvement is always welcomed at PEACE DALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. We have designed our program of study with your child in mind. STUDENT success is most important to us. We are proud of our reputation and *best teaching practices*.

VISION STATEMENT

Graduates of Peace Dale Elementary School are inspired, curious and self-directed learners that are caring citizens, able to use a growth mindset to make positive changes in their lives and the lives of others.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of PDES is to support our diverse learning community to ensure that all members achieve the highest level of personal and academic growth in order to lead fulfilling and productive lives.

SOME SCHOOLS ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE AN ENTIRE TEAM OF OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS. WE AT PEACE DALE ELEMENTARY FEEL THAT WE HAVE SUCH A TEAM. OUR FACULTY, SPECIALISTS, TEACHER ASSISTANTS, AND STAFF ARE SUPPORTIVE OF OUR CHILDREN. ALL MAINTAIN A POSITIVE OUTLOOK, COMMIT TOWARD ATTAINING GOALS, AND DISPLAY ENTHUSIASM ABOUT THEIR WORK.

PDES- Preparing, Developing, and Educating **all Students**

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Dear Peace Dale Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! I would like to extend a special welcome to all of our new families joining the PDES community this year. You are now truly part of a special learning community and we look forward to creating treasured memories with your family!

We are excited and energized to get back to school and look forward to all the fun & engaging learning experiences that await our students this new school year! We are committed to providing a nurturing and caring environment for all students, so they feel safe to take intellectual risks and feel empowered to grow and succeed!

This year, back to school experiences will be unparalleled due to Covid-19 and procedures and protocols for Peace Dale Elementary School will look much different to ensure the health and safety of our entire learning community. Please take some time to read & share this handbook with your child, as its intent is to communicate our clear expectations, rules and procedures to all community members, so that we can elevate teaching and learning practices and ensure all students thrive and achieve academic success.

Safety will always be a number one priority here at PDES. Please understand that policies, protocols and procedures are in place to keep students safe and allow us to focus on teaching and learning. Our reopening plans follow school policy and are aligned to guidance provided by RIDE, RIDOH, and the CDC.
***** Please read all sections carefully and be sure to reach out with any questions or concerns.**

We are looking forward to continuing a strong partnership with you to support our students and help them achieve at their highest potential. We appreciate this powerful home-school connection and your flexibility, as we embark on another new school year together!

Yours respectfully,

Kim Komocar
Principal, Peace Dale Elementary School

Twitter: [@kimberlykomocar](https://twitter.com/kimberlykomocar)

STAFF DIRECTORY

Assignments:	Names:	Email Address
<i>Main Office:</i>		
Principal	Kimberly Komocar	kkomocar@sksd-ri.net
Dean of Students	Mick Lefort	mlefort@sksd-ri.net
Supervisory TA	Kim Whitaker	kwhitaker@sksd-ri.net
Nurse	Vacant	
Administrative Secretary	Julia Huxley	jhuxley@sksd-ri.net
Administrative Specialist	Teresa Vandemoer	tvandemoer@sksd-ri.net
<i>Classroom Teachers:</i>		
Kindergarten	Stacie Girard	sgirard@sksd-ri.net
	Briana Casey	bcasey@sksd-ri.net
	Jesus De la Torre	jdeltorre@sksd-ri.net
	Eileen Daly	edaly@sksd-ri.net
First Grade	Melissa Brown	melissabrown@sksd-ri.net
	Pamela Dolan	pdolan@sksd-ri.net
	Leslie Perrin	lperrin@sksd-ri.net
	Paula Rekos	prekos@sksd-ri.net
Second Grade	Beth Just	bjust@sksd-ri.net
	Michael Farrelly	mfarrelly@sksd-ri.net
	Victoria Wagner	vwagner@sksd-ri.net
	Gabrielle Porcaro	gporcaro@sksd-ri.net
Third Grade	Patricia Fogarty	pfogarty@sksd-ri.net
	Shelly Holden	mholden@sksd-ri.net
	Evelyn Arias	earias@sksd-ri.net
	Alison Rosen	arosen@sksd-ri.net
Fourth Grade	Julie Turcotte	jturcotte@sksd-ri.net
	Katie Nerstheimer	knerstheimer@sksd-ri.net
	Christina Willett	cwillett@sksd-ri.net
	Jennifer Bergmann	jbergmann@sksd-ri.net
<i>Math Coaches/Interventionists</i>		
	Denise Columbino	dcolumbino@sksd-ri.net
	Kerry Mcguirl	kmcguirl@sksd-ri.net
<i>Reading Interventionists</i>	Cindy McVeigh	cmcveigh@sksd-ri.net
	Jill Reardon	jreardon@sksd-ri.net
	Julie Munroe	jmunroe@sksd-ri.net
<i>Literacy Coaches</i>	Kelly Burdge	kburdge@sksd-ri.net
	Dawn Huff	dhuff@sksd-ri.net
<i>ELL</i>	Michelle Manning	mmanning@sksd-ri.net

<i>Special Education Coordinator</i>	Tricia Bowler	tbowler@sksd-ri.net
<i>Special Education Teachers</i>	Colleen Crawley	ccrawley@sksd-ri.net
	Seana Edwards	sedwards@sksd-ri.net
	Kate Collins	kcollins@sksd-ri.net
	Lisa Bergeron	lbergeron@sksd-ri.net
<i>Psychologist</i>	Alison McCallum	amccallum@sksd-ri.net
<i>Social Worker</i>	Julie Merolla	jmerolla@sksd-ri.net
<i>Family Engagement Coordinator</i>	Karen Buetens	kbuemens@sksd-ri.net
<i>Occupational Therapist</i>	Donna Rodgers	drodgers@sksd-ri.net
	Andrea Brandon	abrandon@sksd-ri.net
<i>Physical Therapist</i>	Keri Clare	kclare@sksd-ri.net
<i>Speech & Language</i>	Katelyn Devine	kdevine@sksd-ri.net
	Kate Forbes	kforbes@sksd-ri.net
	Molly Baranoff	mbaranoff@sksd-ri.net
	Beth McLoughlin	bmcloughlin@sksd-ri.net
<i>Specialists</i>		
Media	Martha Badigian	mbadigian@sksd-ri.net
Music	Christine Pierce	cpierce@sksd-ri.net
Art	Sarah Mayoh	smayho@sksd-ri.net
Physical Education/Health	Christine Short	cshort@sksd-ri.net
	Jimmy Champion	jchampion@sksd-ri.net
	Vacant	
<i>Teacher Assistants:</i>	Janelle McCall	Elizabeth Abreu
	Kris Souza	Camilla Lopes
	Megan Butson	Marta Olszewski
	Pat McConnell	Melinda Grasso
	Patricia Gentile	Kim Whitaker
	Molly McCrystal	Barbara Wheeler
	Tianna Cruz	Marlena Paulsen
	Susan Hanlon	Rebekah Marin
<i>Custodians:</i>	Ray Wilkinson	Tanya Karppinen
	Matt Drugan	Terry Cook

PTO Information

Our PTO meets monthly on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30PM in the Media Center. Membership is open to all Peace Dale Elementary School families and staff. A primary focus of the PTO is to raise funds and provide support for classroom activities and the children of Peace Dale School.

PTO Officers for 2019-2020

Co-President: Melissa Bousquet

Co-President: Katie Garvin

Looking for PTO event dates, forms or other information? Join our Facebook community @ Peace Dale Elementary PTO

Peace Dale Elementary School Reopening Plan 2021-2022 SY

The health and safety of our learning community is our top priority. Please click below to see outlined building level health and safety protocols for the reopening of schools this school year:

[Health & Safety- PDES Reopening Plan 2021-2022 SY](#)

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

CLICK HERE: [Arrival/Dismissal Traffic Letter 2021-2022 SY](#)

Bus Company: Ocean State Transit

PHONE: 284-3920

FAX: 284-3929

School Day Hours

THE SCHOOL DAY

8:35 Breakfast program begins-*"grab and go style"*-students will eat in the classroom or outdoors

8:48 Bus Riders/Walkers may begin to arrive. Car Riders should adhere to the following staggered schedule:

ARRIVAL	
Transportation	Arrival Times
Bus Riders	8:48 am
Walkers	8:48 am
Bike Riders	8:48 am
Car Riders Grade K	8:30-8:40am
Car Riders Grades 1-2	8:35-8:45am
Car Riders Grades 3-4	8:45-8:55am
*Families with multiple children should follow the schedule of the youngest child in the lowest grade level.	

8:53 **Instructional day begins**

11:15-2:00 Lunch/Recess

3:13 Dismissal (Car Riders, please adhere to the staggered dismissal schedule)

ATTENDANCE/TRUANCY POLICY (School Committee Policy 8415)

“ Be on time! Be on Task! Every day! Every class! “

School Begins at 8:53 am and ends at 3:13 pm

School Absences:

Please call the school (360-1400, Ext. 2) and leave a message on the absence line if your child will be absent from school. **Please do not email the teacher about your child’s absence.** If you do not call the absence line, a school official will contact you to be certain the child is at home or with a designee. Please, do not send a child to school if s/he is sick. You will be called to pick up any child deemed sick by the school nurse. A doctor’s note is required after three consecutive absences in order for your child to be admitted back into school.

Excused Absence: Excused absences include a student’s participation in an approved school-sponsored activity, suspension days, religious holidays, family emergencies to be approved by an administrator, doctor excused illness or injury (a note from a doctor or medical professional excuse must be submitted within 3 days of the absence), or funerals. If a student is absent for a medical reason for 3 or more days, a doctor’s note **MUST** be provided to the principal or school nurse when re-entering.

Unexcused Absence: Every absence is considered “unexcused” even when a phone call by the parent/guardian has been received stating the specific reason for the absence by the attendance office. For an absence that is 1 or more days in length to be

considered excused, a note from a doctor or medical professional must be received within 3 days of the absence. Student absence from class for purposes of family travel or vacation is a loss of valuable class time and is strongly discouraged. The number of days missed will be counted as unexcused absences.

Tuancy: A student is considered truant when he/she purposely stays away from school without parent/guardian permission and or is consistently late or dismissed early. Students who do miss school with parent/guardian permission, however, can be considered truant at the discretion of the administration.

Tardy/Early Dismissal: By Rhode Island State law, dismissals from school for any reason are considered part of a student's attendance record and are counted as an absence. Students who arrive late and leave early miss out on valuable instructional time and cause a distraction to the teaching and learning going on in the classroom. Please make every effort to help your child be in school on time every day and stay in school for the entire day.

Vacations During School Calendar:

We discourage families from scheduling vacations outside of the regular school vacations, holidays, and summer break, as quality learning time will have been lost. Teachers are not responsible for preparing school work that a student will miss during a vacation that is not scheduled during school vacation periods. Vacations are not excused absences and will affect truancy.

Your student's attendance information can be found on South Kingstown's Student Information Management System, Skyward/Family Access component on the South Kingstown School's web page www.skschools.net under the Parent heading. (Ex: *Username(parent): smithj PW: southkingstown**)

LUNCH AND RECESS (Policy 3500)

Please be advised that for safety reasons, students are not permitted to share food at any time during the school day.

Chartwells School Dining Services runs our school's breakfast and lunch program. Each month a menu will be sent home as part of the newsletter. Please review the menu and help your child make a selection for the school day. The federal government has extended its grant funding again this school year to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students. Chartwells School Dining Service PHONE: 360-1055 FAX: 360-1059

Recess is part of the daily routine for all children, it is important to their social and physical development. All children are expected to participate unless there is written notice from a parent or health care provider. Recess will be held outdoors unless the determination is made by the school nurse teacher that the health and welfare of students is at risk. All schools will use the *Child Care Weather Watch* chart for guidance in making the decision for inside/outside recess. **Students are also expected to be dressed properly for the weather. Snow boots, snow pants, coats, hats, mittens, should be worn or at the very least stored in the backpack during the cold months because we go outside year-round.** We also strongly urge you to write your

child's name in all clothing so that we can return it as soon as we find it. There is a winter gear rack in the front foyer for anyone who wishes to donate gently used, clean winter gear and for those who need winter gear. Please let us know if we can help you if you are in need of winter gear for your student.

PEANUT FREE/NUT FREE REGULATIONS

According to the Rhode Island Law passed in 2007, schools are required to have a designated nut free table in the cafeteria. In order to be sure that the foods at that table are peanut/tree nut free and are not processed in a facility that contains nuts, only children purchasing school lunch can sit at the designated peanut/tree nut free table. Every effort will be made for socialization with other students at that table. Students with life-threatening allergies will require a doctor's note if they do not require a peanut/tree nut table. In addition, several classrooms and cafeteria areas are designated as "nut free" due to severe food allergies of students in our schools. You will be notified if your child is in a "nut free" classroom. They will not be allowed to eat any food containing nuts in the classroom at any time. However, food containing nuts may be eaten in the lunchroom.

LOST AND FOUND

Please put your child's name on every item brought to school. We will donate unclaimed, unmarked items to a charity such as The Jonnycake Center. Check the Lost and Found frequently for any items lost. Sometimes the items do not appear in the Lost and Found immediately, but surface later.

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS AND RULES

Through **PBIS** (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support), the **OLWEUS BULLY PREVENTION PROGRAM (OBPP)**, and the **Choose Love** curriculum, our focus is on recognizing and reinforcing positive behaviors, however we must also have structures for addressing behaviors that disrupt learning or may result in harm to others. Our school's expectations are to **Respect Ourselves, Others and our Community (ROC!)**. **"A person is bullied when they are exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more persons, and they have difficulty defending themselves. Bullying is NOT when students have a disagreement."** We also have 4 Anti-bullying rules that are explicitly taught throughout the school year through class meetings using the OLWEUS curriculum. They are:

1. We will not bully others.
2. We will try to help students who are bullied.
3. We will try to include students who are left out.
4. If we know that somebody is being bullied we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

Through the Choose Love curriculum, students are taught the importance of Courage, Gratitude, Forgiveness and Compassion in their daily lives. The matrix below outlines the expectations in all areas of the school.

Students are expected to demonstrate good citizenship and appropriate social behavior at all times. Behavior is never to infringe upon the rights of other students or adults, thereby disrupting the teaching and learning process or school environment. A teacher or supervisory adult may remove a student from the classroom or playground area when the student deliberately caused a discipline offense that violates the safety or civil respect of others. At that time our PBIS structures are used to reflect on and reteach the expected behavior and to communicate with families as necessary. Staff and our administrator will collect data to determine behavioral trends, with the view of supporting students' self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher directly at any time if you feel there is an issue or concern that needs to be brought to our attention.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES (School Committee Policies Section 8000 /8310, 8315, 8320, 8325)

BUS DISCIPLINE (School Committee Policy 8325)

Behavioral expectations for a safe bus ride are explicitly taught during the first few days of school and reviewed throughout the year. The bus rules are clearly explained by school staff and the bus driver. Bus riders must see that their bodies are safely in the seat and that books and personal belongings are kept out of the aisles. Special permission must be granted by school authorities and the bus company to transport large items. Band instruments that cannot be kept on the student's lap may not be permitted on the bus. School projects which cannot be kept on the student's lap are not permitted. The policy governing suspension of bus privileges is below.

First Offense:	Verbal reprimand, letter to parents
Second Offense:	Warning letter to parents
Third Offense:	Five (5) school-day bus suspension and conference with parent, bus driver, student, and principal
Fourth Offense:	Bus suspension for remainder of year

Peace Dale Elementary School Behavior Expectations and Discipline Procedures

We are a P.B.I.S. (Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports) school. This behavior process ensures that staff and students acknowledge the positive behavior school-wide expectations. Three rules apply to all areas of the school. (The school bus is considered

an extension of the school.) The rules are basically the same in all areas with some modifications for specific settings. All students are responsible for their own behavior. We do not tolerate bullying and have added an anti bully component to our expected behavior chart. Throughout the school year we meet with students to discuss behavior expectations and strategies- via class meetings, whole group assemblies, lunch discussions and small group or individual meetings when necessary.

Peace Dale School Expectations

Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe

PEACE DALE PEACEFUL COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS MATRIX (2020-2021)						
	BATHROOM	HALLWAY	RECESS	LUNCH	TECHNOLOGY	BUS
Respectful	Give people privacy Clean up after yourself Be considerate of the impact your actions have on others	Use quiet voices Be aware of other classes Be considerate of the impact your actions have on others	Include others Use school appropriate language Play fairly Be considerate of the impact your actions have on others	Use school appropriate language Be considerate of the impact your actions have on others	Use school appropriate language in the chat and emails Stay engaged in lessons and actively participate Be considerate of the impact your actions have on others	Use school appropriate language and quiet voices Be considerate of the impact your actions have on others
Responsible	Be quick Inform an adult of low supplies and other bathroom concerns Use bathroom during designated times Use assigned bathroom	Follow adult directions Stay in class line on right side of the hallway Go directly to your destination	Follow adult directions Ask for permission to go inside Stop and listen to directions when the whistle blows Actively listen to adult directions during transitions	Follow adult directions Clean up your area Be prepared for your next class Actively listen to adult directions during transitions Speak softly	Take care of your device Follow teacher instructions and complete your work	Follow adult directions Be on time Clean up after yourself Be prepared and ready to enter and exit bus
Safe	Maintain Social Distancing Wear your mask Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds Keep soap and water in sink	Maintain Social Distancing Wear your mask Walk slowly and safely while facing forward Keep hands and feet to yourself	Maintain Social Distancing Wear your mask Stay in designated areas Keep hands and feet to yourself	Maintain Social Distancing Face forward Take extra safety precautions when masks are off	Be considerate of the impact your language has on others Stay on school appropriate websites Inform adults of issues or inappropriate use of technology	Maintain Social Distancing Wear your mask Stay seated and face forward Keep hands and feet to yourself Keep aisle clear

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION (School Committee Policy 8305)

Suspension means an exclusion of a student from attendance at school, school property, and all school sponsored activities for disciplinary reasons, it may not be given for more than ten consecutive days, provided such suspension shall not extend beyond the end of the school year in which it is imposed. Suspension is determined by an authorized member of the administrative staff. Listed are some examples of breaches of conduct that may lead to suspension/expulsion:

- **Threats**
- **Striking or assaulting a student or member of the staff**
- **Possession of a weapon or alcohol, or dangerous drugs or narcotics**
- **Destruction of school property**
- **Disruption of school day by bomb threat or false alarm**

BCI PROCEDURES FOR FIELD TRIPS AND VOLUNTEERING

If you are interested in being a school volunteer or mentor, please contact CARES at www.skcares.org or 360-1304. Please note that a **YEARLY** BCI (background check) is required to volunteer in school and to chaperone all field trips. Every current

background check must be on file with the South Kingstown School Department at the School Administration building – 307 Curtis Corner Rd. To obtain a BCI go to the Attorney General’s **Customer Service Center located at 4 Howard Avenue, Cranston, M-F 8:30-4:40**. For questions please visit www.riag.ri.gov or call 274-4400. To comply with the field trip policy, you must have a cleared and current BCI on file. The BCI must be dated within 12 months of the trip. Please take note that many chaperones apply for their BCI during field trip “season” and that is also when they expire so please plan accordingly.

FIELD TRIP POLICY (School Committee Policy 7120)

All chaperones must be at least 21 years of age and have an annual background check (BCI) that meets the satisfaction of the school department and state requirements. All information is found on the skschools.net website and through the **CARES organization**. **Medical Guidelines:** If any student has a serious medical condition, be sure that his/her doctor writes a letter indicating the child may safely attend and participate in trip activities. For students possibly needing prescribed medical care while on the field trip, there must be an exchange of information between the school nurse teacher and the teachers on the field trip regarding care of the student. Students requiring specialized medical care must be chaperoned by a school nurse or medically trained equivalent. Parents may attend or designate another adult to attend in their place in order to relieve the necessity of a licensed nurse to attend in order to dispense medication or perform specialized procedures. No student shall be denied access to a field trip or other activity solely on the basis of disability or medical condition. Access to a field trip can be denied for behavior only if the behavior is not related to a student’s disability and this standard is equally applied to all students.

***Please note: All field trips begin and end at the school. No one can drop off or take a student home from the place of the field trip.**

CLASS PLACEMENT (School Committee Policy 8135)

Elementary age students are placed heterogeneously (classrooms with mixed ability levels.) The professionals who work with the students make placement decisions. Grade level teachers, special education teachers, and the principal will make placement decisions based upon information gathered throughout the course of the year. To make balanced classes, student placement decisions will take into consideration the child’s gender, developmental level, cognitive abilities, academic level, learning style, work habits, individual needs, and school behaviors. Other factors will be class size, social composition, and peer relationships. All parents will have the opportunity to inform the school of their child’s special learning needs through the use of the Student Information Form (available through the main office and distributed in the spring by school newsletter). We value your insight into your child’s learning style and will take this information into account in our placement decision. Please remember that parent input is only one of the many criteria we use when we consider class placement. Notification of a student’s placement for the upcoming year will be mailed home in August before the start of the next school year.

ABCs of IMPORTANT SCHOOL INFORMATION

APPOINTMENTS for DISCUSSION OF SCHOOL ISSUES

One time per year formal Parent/Teacher conferences will be scheduled by the district. There will be no school that day and you will be notified in advance. At any time during the school year, if you need to speak to your child's teacher or the principal, please leave a message on voice-mail, send an email or a note. We will reply as soon as possible.

BOOKS

Throughout this year, your child will be bringing home practice reading books as part of their daily reading workshop. These books need to be returned to the school the VERY NEXT day so that your child can continue reading or child's classmates can use them the next night. **They may be small books and seemingly insignificant, but they are precious to us.** Please ensure that your child reads them and puts them back in their backpack each night. Classroom books and Library books that are not returned in a timely manner will be charged as a cost to your family because we will need to replace the book and put it back into the classroom's reading library.

CELEBRATIONS (School Committee Policy 7751)

Due to the many food allergies, including those that are life-threatening, we do not allow treats to be brought to school for distribution to the whole class. An alternative option to honor a birthday might be to purchase a book for the class or school library with a bookplate honoring your child. Stickers or pencils are also options to consider. If teachers request food, they will be specific about the allergies of concern. All food brought to the class must include ingredients and be approved by the school nurse. Please be very careful. We allow invitations to be distributed in the classroom **only if ALL classmates are invited.**

DRESS CODE

The purpose of the South Kingstown District dress guidelines is to maintain a safe learning environment where all students are treated equitably regardless of gender/gender identification, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, body type/size, religion and personal style.

1. Maintain a safe learning environment in class where protective or clothing that supports the activity is needed.
2. Allow students to wear clothing that express their self identified gender
3. Allow students to wear religious attire, including any headwear, without fear of discipline or discrimination

4. Prevent students from wearing clothing and depicts, advertises, or advocates and offensive/violent acts or language
5. Children should dress appropriately for school and the weather.

Recess is part of the daily routine for all children, it is important to their social and physical development. All children are expected to go outside for recess unless there is written notice from a parent. Students are also expected to be dressed properly for the weather: Snow boots, snow pants, coats, hats, mittens, should be worn during the cold months because we go outside year-round.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The General Assembly of Rhode Island enacted a law entitled “Health and Safety of Pupils,” which requires school districts to have comprehensive safety plans. We routinely practice Fire Drills, Lockdown and Emergency Evacuation drills. In the event of an emergency, the principal will determine if students and staff should be evacuated outside of the building, or to a nearby relocation site. Crisis Team Members will coordinate the orderly transfer of students to the evacuation center. Each school has a designated primary relocation site and parents will be notified by the district automated telephone system with important information regarding reunification. **Please be sure to update your telephone contact information throughout the year.** State law requires 15 fire and emergency drills per year. Students are expected to leave the building in an orderly, quiet manner. The teacher will take attendance to assure accountability for all children. It is imperative that all classroom volunteers sign in and out consistently so that everyone is counted accurately.

FORGOTTEN ITEMS

Forgotten items from home including homework, lunches, band instruments, etc., may be left at the office for delivery at a time which will not disrupt classroom routines. Unless the item is absolutely necessary for the day, we suggest helping your child become responsible by allowing her/him to experience consequences for forgetting the item(s). This will help develop a sense of responsibility and self-reliance.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

MEDICATIONS (School Committee Policy 5141)

Parents/guardians are requested, whenever possible, to schedule administration of medication outside of the normal school day. Parents of students needing medication during the school day are required to bring the medication to the school nurse with an authorization form signed by your physician. **Both prescription and nonprescription medications require a licensed health care provider’s written order and a written parent authorization.** All medication must be in a pharmacy labeled and/or prescription container and/or manufacturer’s container. At the time the prescription is filled, the

parent/guardian shall have the pharmacist dispense an extra labeled container for use at school. No student shall have in his/her possession any medication while on school property. **All medication shall be dispensed by a School Nurse. No medication shall be dispensed without following this procedure. Never send your child to school with any type of medication.**

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Please notify the school if your child has any communicable conditions such as Covid 19, Strep Throat, Chicken Pox, Fifth disease, etc... This is a responsibility that must be practiced by all families.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

School insurance is available at the beginning of the year. You are not obligated to purchase this insurance. If your child is not covered by health insurance, it is strongly recommended that you purchase the insurance in the unfortunate possibility of your child being injured at school. Brochures and applications are online at www.skschools.net. For any questions, call Maria Parrillo at 360-1306.

HOMEWORK POLICY (School Committee Policy 7125)

The South Kingstown School Department believes that homework is an important part of a child's education. It promotes responsibility and time management; it develops valuable study skills and reinforces and enriches classroom instruction. Homework assigned to students should reflect that individual students learn at different rates; provide feedback from a teacher, student or computer; meaningfully and appropriately reinforce the learning in the classroom; provide opportunities to apply, analyze, synthesize, evaluate, or enrich recently learned content and encourage voice, choice and innovation.

LEGAL CUSTODY (School Committee Policy 8410)

Anyone (parent, relative, friend) having a court order granting custody of a child must file a copy of said order with the principal of any school which the child attends. Changes in said documentation must also be submitted to the principal. Permission to release children to others must be in writing to the building principal and signed by the person having custody. No child may be released without this written permission.

OPEN HOUSE/REPORT NIGHT

During our Fall Open House, Peace Dale Elementary will conduct a report to the community about our school's most recent summative test data including state assessments. This evening is also an opportunity for parents and guardians to meet the classroom teachers and support professionals who work with our students. Please watch for our Open House date to be publicized.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Children are not to bring toys to school. **We do not allow children to buy or trade personal items with other children** and we will not mediate differences of opinion about ownership of items brought to school that are not labeled with a child's name. **Electronic devices are not to be used during school or recess unless they are part of the academic program.** If devices are confiscated, parents will be notified to pick up items from the principal. (They sometimes help children who have long bus rides. The use of these devices is between the parent/guardian and the bus driver.)

PUBLICATION CONSENT

There may be times when the school may wish to release for publication, photos for newspapers, videotaping, pictures on the school web page, Facebook, Twitter etc... If you **DO NOT** want your child/ren to participate, you may opt out, at any time, by writing a letter to our office stating so. You will also be sent a Peace Dale Family Handbook Acknowledgement Google Form in the beginning of the school year that will also capture this request for consent.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are distributed three times a year, December, March and June. Parents are encouraged to request an appointment with their child's teacher whenever there is a concern about their child's academic or social progress.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE (School Committee Policy 4205)

School Committee Policy requires that parents of all children be informed of the following requirement concerning child abuse or neglect: **In compliance with Chapter 11 of Title 40 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, employees of the school department are required to report any knowledge or suspicion of child abuse or neglect to the Rhode Island Department of Children and their Families no later than 24 hours after such knowledge is learned or suspicion is raised.**

RESPECT FOR PROPERTY

We expect that proper care and attention be given to school materials. Lost or destroyed classroom books, library books, supplies, and materials must be replaced by the student or parent.

SCHOOL CANCELLATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The South Kingstown School Department utilizes the automated telephone system, School Messenger. This phone system will be used to notify you of early dismissals, school cancellations, and other events. Parents are also encouraged to sign up for immediate notification of weather related delays and cancellations through the Rhode Island Broadcaster's Association <http://www.ribroadcasters.com/> Emergency closings after students have arrived at school will be communicated via a

school based listserv message, robo call, and through RI Broadcaster's Association. Parents should discuss with their child in advance any alternate dismissal plans that they have arranged in the event that a parent/guardian would not be home for an early dismissal. If school is dismissed early due to inclement weather or emergency circumstances, any activity planned in the school that evening is canceled. When an after-school program is canceled due to inclement weather or other factors, the sponsoring organization is responsible for notifying parents of the cancellation.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Strong communication between home and school is critical, especially during a time when circumstances can change quickly. Information will be provided through robo-calls, emails, our weekly newsletter and phone calls. Please be sure your information is updated in our student information system in Skyward. Our office staff is happy to support you, with this process if needed and can be reached at 401-360-1600.

STATE TESTING

RICAS (Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System)

The goals of the comprehensive assessment system is to increase student learning by producing actionable data, evaluate the effectiveness of programs and ensure that all students are making progress towards achieving learning goals. The RICAS assessment will be administered in grade 3 and 4 in the spring and all students are expected to participate in these statewide assessments. Please encourage your child to do their best and be well rested during the assessment window RICAS assessment For more information, visit the RIDE website at www.eride.ri.gov. Dates for the assessments are released in the late winter and will be communicated with families upon release.

UNIFIED ARTS

All students in grades Kindergarten through four have Art, Music each week, Physical Education twice a week and Health and Library every other week . The teachers will provide a schedule to students the first week of school. Students in grade four may participate in the school Chorus. Also, students in grade four may participate in "Strings" instruction and it is available in school at no cost to students. The strings teacher will send home announcements to notify students and parents of their options. **Reminder: According to bus transportation regulations, instruments that cannot be accommodated safely on a child's lap may not be transported on the bus.**

VISITORS

Parents and community are welcome to visit our school upon prior notification, appointment and approval. In addition, for the safety of students and staff, **all visitors must stop at the office to sign in to obtain a VISITOR BADGE** before heading to the destination. Parents and caregivers will not be permitted to escort students to their classrooms unless special permission has been granted by the principal. *(Please refer to policy #1250 for additional information.)*

Due to Covid-19 procedures and restrictions, visitors were not permitted in the school building during the 2020-2021 school year. We will follow the most recent guidance available through RI Department of Education to reinstate having visitors and volunteers in our school as soon as permitted.

Educational Records and Confidentiality - Annual Notification of Rights

The South Kingstown School Department makes educational records available to parents or eligible students (students over the age of eighteen) according to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). As a parent or eligible student, you have the following rights:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records
- The right to request an amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate or misleading.
- The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records.
- Directory type information may be disclosed without consent in a manner consistent with FERPA and the South Kingstown School Department policy regarding education records. If you do not want directory information released, you may use the form below to file such a request.
- Information must be disclosed to military recruiters unless you request otherwise. You may use the form below to file such a request.
 - The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school department to comply with the requirements of FERPA.
 - A copy of the school department policy regarding education records is available in the school and the Office of the Superintendent of Schools or online at skschools.net.

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RESPECT FOR PROPERTY

We expect that proper care and attention be given to school materials. Lost or destroyed textbooks, library books, supplies, and materials must be replaced by the student or parent.

SCHOOL CANCELLATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The superintendent will make the decision to close schools. A district-wide automated phone message will be sent to the telephone number listed on students' registration information form. Cancellation, delay or dismissal information can also be found on local television and radio stations. If school is dismissed early due to inclement weather or emergency circumstances, any activity planned in the school that evening is canceled. When an after-school program is canceled due to inclement weather or other factors, the sponsoring organization is responsible for notifying parents of the cancellation.

TITLE I

Title 1 federal funds come to the school based on the number of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. These funds pay for educational supports to help all students reach their academic potential:

- Parents will be notified if their child is a Title I student
- The school will host Title I events throughout the school year, which will include:
In the fall an annual meeting with all Title I parents regarding Title I regulations, parent involvement policy, services child will receive, the rights of parents to be involved and parent information sessions
- Title 1 families will receive notifications and invitations to events through the school flyers and mail
- Childcare will be provided at Title I events
- Parents and students will be asked to provide feedback regarding Title 1 programs (parent workshops, student intervention programs during the school day, afterschool and summer) in order to plan future programs
- Annually-Title I parents will be involved in reviewing and planning the Title I plan.

*****Peace Dale Elementary School receives Title 1 funds. Parents of children attending Peace Dale may request the professional qualifications of their child's teachers. Parents may request information related to state certification, highly qualified status, emergency certification, and degrees as well as information about the qualifications of paraprofessionals. This information is available by calling the main office at 360-1600 and speak to the principal.**

District Title I Parent Involvement Policy
Title I Requirement, Section 1118, Parent Involvement

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The South Kingstown Public Schools will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I targeted assistance programs, consistent with the section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Parents are partners with the district in the development and dissemination of both the district and their school's parent involvement policies. Furthermore, they are also our partners in the process of school improvement through meetings, surveys and written communication. These programs, activities and procedures have been and will continue to be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

South Kingstown Public Schools truly believe that everyone gains if the school and parents work together to promote high student achievement. Neither the school nor parents can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. Parental support for children and for the school is critical to the success of each child. Our core beliefs, outlined below, will be reflected in all our work with families and with the community

Transparent Evidence-Based Decision Making

- The use of data will guide our decisions both for Title I students and for our entire district.
- Evidence-based decision making will be shared with families to help them better understand student goals.

When We Support the Whole Child Now, We Support the Whole Community

- South Kingstown believes that children are our future. Supporting them in all aspects of their education translates to success for the entire community.
- Support for students should draw upon the guidance outlined in the RI Board of Regents Regulations that requires each child to have at least one adult who is knowledgeable about the child's social/emotional, academic, and career goals.
- Resources need to be spent in ways that have a direct effect on student achievement.

When the Whole Community Supports its Schools, it Supports its Future

- We need active engagement of all members of the community to promote success for all students in all aspects of their life and especially for our neediest population.
- Active engagement comes in many forms, from mentoring or volunteering students, to sharing information with families, or to providing training for our staff.

Academic Rigor for Each and Every Child

- High quality, rigorous educational programming for all but especially for those in danger of being "left behind"
- Equity of all educational opportunities for all students

PART II. DISTRICT SUPPORT FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The District will, with the assistance of our Title I schools and families, educate our teachers, principals, and staff as they reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners. This professional development will emphasize:

- The value of parental contributions
- How to reach out to and work with parents as equal partners
- How to strengthen the ties between the parent community and the school community

The District will offer technical assistance, coordination, and other support necessary to help schools plan parent involvement activities to improve student and school academic performance and build school and parent capacities for strong parent involvement in a variety of ways, including assistance for our Title I targeted assistance schools in the design of effective parent involvement programs that include the six types of parental involvement detailed by Joyce Epstein:

- Communicating – communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful
- Parenting – parenting skills are promoted and supported
- Student learning – parents play an integral role in assisting student learning
- Volunteering – parents are welcome in the school and their support and assistance are sought
- School decision making and advocacy – parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families
- Collaborating with the community – community resources are used to strengthen schools, families, and student learning

The District will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with the District pre-school, with Parents as Teachers, and with other parent resource centers. This will support our efforts to encourage and enable parents to more fully participate in the education of their children. Support may include providing families with workshops on transition from pre-school to kindergarten, literacy at home, and understanding grade level expectations.

PART III. ANNUAL EVALUATION

The South Kingstown Public Schools will take the following actions to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I targeted assistance schools:

- Examining gains in student data, including student achievement, school performance and attendance.
- Surveying families annually to assess the effectiveness of the parent involvement activities in our Title I targeted assistance schools. This includes determining whether families have been provided with information in a timely manner and in a format and language that is easily understood.
- Using family outreach coordinators, in partnership with the Rhode Island Parent Information Network, to help families make good use of community resources to increase support for themselves and for their children and to address barriers to greater participation in school based activities. The effectiveness of this work will be assessed through the annual survey and through increased attendance at school sponsored events.
- In addition to the annual meeting, the Title I schools will hold meetings throughout the year to provide parents with information and strategies that build on a parents' capacity to help their child read at home. Feedback from these meetings will be used to design future parent involvement activities.

First Reading: May 22, 2012, Second Reading/Adoption: June 12, 2012

Title 1 Schools- "Right To Know"

Although all of our teachers at Peace Dale Elementary School are properly certified, we are required to share the following information with parents under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Under ESSA, parents have the right to request professional qualifications of their children's teacher(s). This is to inform you of your right to ask for the following information:

A school that receives funds under this part shall provide to each individual parent of a child who is a student in such school, with respect to such student timely notice that the student has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not

meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.



**Use of all tobacco products, including E-cigarettes is prohibited.
EVERYWHERE. EVERYONE. AT ALL TIMES.
*Pursuant to RI General Law Chapter 23-20.9-5.***

Thank you for taking the time to read and understand the policies and procedures in this handbook. Please call if you have any questions.

SECTION E - RELEVANT SCHOOL DEPARTMENT POLICIES

<u>HIV INFECTED</u> Policy #1220	<u>HAZING</u> Policy #1225	<u>RESPECTFUL AND PEACEFUL SCHOOL COMMUNITY</u> Policy # 1230
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<u>BULLYING</u> Policy # 1231	<u>NON-DISCRIMINATION</u> Policy # 1236	<u>SCHOOL VISITATION</u> Policy #1250
<u>MEAL CHARGE</u> Policy #3500	<u>CHILD ABUSE REPORTING</u> Policy # 4205	<u>MEDICATION</u> Policy # 5141
<u>HOMEWORK</u> Policy #7125	<u>FIELD TRIP</u> Policy #7120	<u>WELLNESS</u> Policy #7751
<u>TECHNOLOGY</u> Policy #7205	<u>INTERNET FILTERING</u> Policy #7210	<u>STUDENT CONFIDENTIALITY</u> Policy #8220
<u>SUSPENSION/EXPULSION</u> Policy #8305	<u>STUDENT CONDUCT</u> Policy # 8315	<u>ASSAULT AND ILLEGAL WEAPONS POSSESSION</u> Policy #8320
<u>BUS DISCIPLINE</u> Policy #8325	<u>LEGAL CUSTODY</u> Policy #8410	<u>ATTENDANCE AND TRUANCY</u> Policy #8415

[2021-2022 SY School Year Calendar](#)