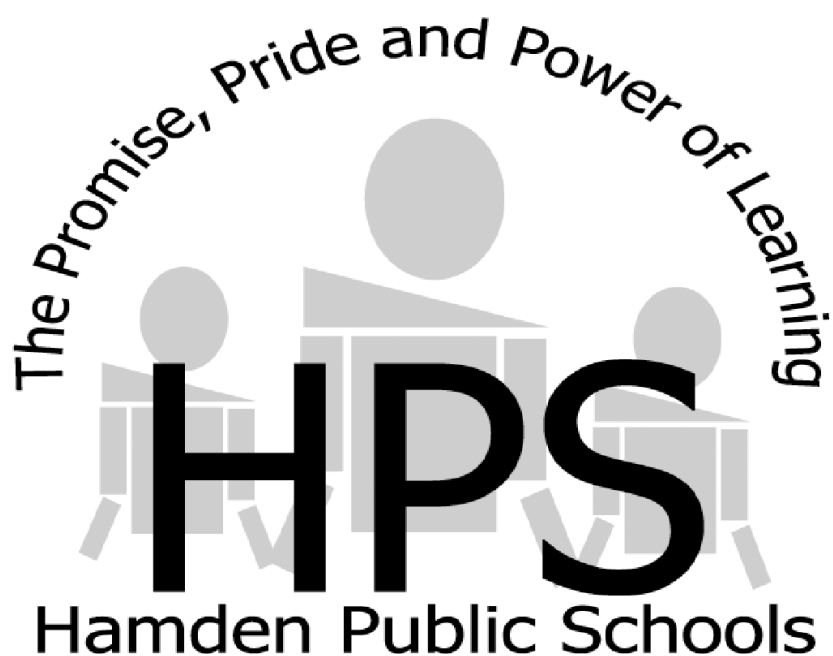


Bear Path Elementary School

Information Handbook

2021-2022



10 Kirk Road
Hamden, Connecticut 06514
Telephone: 203-407-2022

Terri Kurczewski, Principal
Website: **www.hamden.org**

Hamden Board of Education

Jody Goeler, Superintendent

Christopher Melillo, Assistant Superintendent

Board of Education Members

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Melinda Saller (Secretary)

Lynn Campo

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Bear Path School PTA Executive Board 2021-2022

Katie Hagen, President

President@bearpathpta.org

Megan Clapp, Vice President

VicePresident@bearpathpta.org

Alyson Estevez, Treasurer

treasurer@bearpathpta.org

Michelle DeLucia, Secretary

secretary@bearpathpta.org



Terri Kurczewski, Principal

Welcome to Bear Path School!

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to school for the 2021-2022 school year! In these unprecedented times, the staff of Bear Path Elementary are committed to the physical, emotional, and academic health of all the students in our community. In some ways, we are returning to some of the practices we used in pre-pandemic schools, but our school has also taken the opportunity to reflect on the lessons learned and innovative practices developed over the past 18 months. We aim to maintain an environment at Bear Path School which creates a healthy, wondrous, inclusive, equitable, and joyful learning environment for all our children.

We all have so many hopes and dreams for our children. By maintaining the commitment to excellence in instruction, consistent communication, and targeted interventions, we will be providing opportunities every day for students to move one step closer to those goals. In nurturing students to be actively engaged in their own learning, even through the inevitable challenges presented by some lessons, we support the lifelong skills of perseverance, having a growth mindset (neuroplasticity), and problem solving.

While our goal is to maintain consistent communication with each family, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or your child's teacher with any questions, comments, or ideas. One thing that has been reiterated throughout the pandemic and still rings true is that **we are better together.**

Thank you for all your support, partnership, and communication as we embark on another exciting learning journey with our children!

In Partnership,

Terri Kurczewski, Principal

Bear Path School and the Hamden Public Schools

Our Vision:

We envision a professional learning culture wherein all members of the school community consistently put the needs of students first and foremost. In such a community, the exclusive focus of all our efforts will be to increase the achievement levels of all students, while simultaneously expanding the knowledge bases of all adult members of the school community.

Our Mission Statement:

The mission of the Hamden Public Schools is to ensure all our students learn to the best of their potential each and every day they are entrusted to our care.

We aim to provide challenging, high-quality learning experiences and supports so that all students develop skills, attitudes and practices for academic and life-long success.

Our Goals:

1. All students will demonstrate accelerated growth in reading with the goal of meeting proficiency by the end of grade three
2. All students will demonstrate accelerated growth in math, with the goal of achieving Algebra I readiness by the end of grade eight
3. Increase student achievement in grades 9-12
4. Reduce student chronic absenteeism districtwide
5. Increase equity districtwide

Bear Path Pledge:

At Bear Path School, we choose love! We pledge to spread kindness.

We are a friendly, accepting and honest place. We do our best and challenge ourselves. We encourage others, show compassion and lead with positivity!



Hamden Public Schools Portrait of a Graduate

Dragon P.R.I.D.E

Persistence

Dragons are confident, adaptable and driven. We pursue goals through perseverance, resilience, and work ethic.

Responsibility

Dragons lead with a strong moral compass. We are accountable and contributing members of the community. Dragons are fearless to tackle societal issues.

Empathy

Dragons identify with or understand the perspective, experiences, and motivations of another individual. Dragons are kind and open-minded.

Inquiry

Dragons connect, wonder, investigate, construct, express, and reflect.

Diversity

Dragons are appreciative of ourselves and the world around us.

Ready for College, Career, Life

The goal of Hamden Public Schools is to produce graduates who exhibit Dragon PRIDE. As your child moves from elementary, to middle, and then high school, we will focus on creating learning environments that promote the development of these traits.

Bear Path Elementary School Staff
2021-2022

Principal Terri Kurczewski			
Secretary Laura Cappiello			
Kindergarten		Fifth Grade	
	Renee Brumleve		Mary Dunn
	Maria DiMeo		Lisa Kingston
	Christine Longobardi		Sarah Lane
First Grade		Sixth Grade	
	Ellyn Buteau		Ben Kerzner
	Shannon Bowsher		Colin Miller
	Lamia Musallam		Andrew Turkewitz
Second Grade			Sharon Weingart
	Candice Damico	IIC 5/6	
	Leigh Fitzgerald		Monica Jermine
	Courtney Scotto		Kristen Parolise
Third Grade		IIC K/1	
	Andrea Livolsi		TBD
	Frank Renaldi		
	Tina Rotondo		
Fourth Grade		Specials	
	Debbie Hennessey		Andy DeBenedet, Art
	Kim Sirch		Deanna Broga, Music
	Lori Voegli		Gary Orlofsky, Orchestra
			Megan Spahic, Physical Education
			Margo Nabors, Library-Media

Bear Path Staff 2021-2022 (<i>continued</i>)			
Specialists		PPT Team	
	Megan Harwood, Resource Teacher		Khush Khan, Psychologist
	Katie Eddy, Resource Teacher		Sarah Hernandez, Social Worker
	Mallory Sanders, Resource Teacher		Leanne Bartosiak, Social Worker
	Allison Wills, Reading		Deb Kras, Speech Pathologist
	Doreen Stohler, Math		Karen Laing, Nurse
	Tracy Bocek, SRBI		

Important Phone Numbers

Hamden Public Schools (203) 407-2000
 Bear Path Main Office (203) 407-2015
 Bear Path Fax (203) 407-5102
 Bear Path Nurse (203) 407-3102
 First Student Bus Company (203) 288-2887
 HPS Transportation Office (203) 407-2423

Important Links

Hamden Public Schools: <https://www.hamden.org/>
Bear Path Homepage: <https://www.hamden.org/bearpath>
Bear Path PTA: <https://www.bearpathpta.org/>
HPS Calendar: <https://www.hamden.org/district-information/district-calendar>
Lunch Menus:
<https://www.hamden.org/district-information/lunchmenu>
Community Resources: <https://www.hamden.org/resources/community>

*****VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE*****
Tuesday, September 14, 2021
5:30-7:30 PM
Link will be provided in weekly newsletter

PTA MEETING SCHEDULE 2021-2022 School Year

Time ~ 6:30-7:30 PM Media Center

Last Wednesday of the month

September 29, 2021

November 10, 2021

January 12, 2022

March 9, 2022

May 11, 2022

SCHEDULED EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS
(Early Dismissal Time @ 1:00 pm)

October 21, 2021

December 9, 10, 13, 23, 2021

January 27, 2022

February 17, 2022

March 10, 24, and 25, 2022

April 28, 2022

June 9, 2022

SCHEDULED DAYS OFF

Labor Day ~ September 5, 2021

Rosh Hashanah ~ September 6, 2021

Yom Kippur ~ September 16, 2021

Professional Development/Election Day ~ November 1 and 2, 2021

Thanksgiving Recess ~ November 24-26, 2021

Holiday Recess ~ December 24, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day ~ January 17, 2022

Winter Recess ~ February 21, 22, 2022

Good Friday ~ April 15, 2022

Spring Recess ~ April 18-22, 2022

Memorial Day ~ May 30, 2022

Anticipated Last Day of School: June 9, 2022 (subject to change)

ABSENCES

Regular attendance and punctuality is highly encouraged for all students. A student is considered to be in attendance if s/he is present for at least half of the regular school day. If a student is going to be absent, parents must call the main office by 9:00 AM. Parents may also leave a voicemail at (203) 407-2015 to report an absence with the student's name, teacher's name, reason for absence, and the name of the person calling.

The State Board of Education, in accordance with Connecticut General Statute 10-198a, established two levels of criteria for an absence to be excused. While the first nine absences in a school year can be deemed excused without documentation, the 10th and each subsequent absence thereafter requires a parent note and may only be excused for the following reasons:

- Student illness (all student illness must be verified by an appropriately licensed medical professional, including the school's health office, to be deemed excused, regardless of the length of absence);
- Student's observance of a religious holiday;
- Death in the student's family or other emergency beyond the control of the student's family;
- Mandate court appearances (additional documentation required)
- The lack of transportation that is normally provided by a district other than the one the student attends (no parent documentation is needed for this reason)
- Extraordinary educational opportunities pre-approved by district administrators and in accordance with Connecticut Department of Education guidance.

ACADEMIC DAY

Our daily schedule is as follows:

- 8:30 a.m. – Doors open for children
- 8:45 a.m. – School begins
- 3:34 p.m. – Bus and Car loop dismissal

Students arriving past 8:45 need to be walked to the front door with a parent or guardian to be signed in.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

We are pleased to offer our students access to a computer network, including electronic mail and the Internet. Students who wish to use the computer network **must** have an *Acceptable Use Policy* signed by a parent or guardian and by the student. This will remain a part of a permanent record for your child. Your child will be denied use of the computer if this signed policy is not on file. Inappropriate use of or damage to a computer or other equipment will result in a consequence and a possible replacement fee. Students and parents should be aware that e-mail communications and social media sites should be used responsibly at home. Misuse of media at home, if found to seriously impact the learning environment, can result in school consequences.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Report change of address, all phone numbers, and emergency contacts promptly. In the event of a new address, parents must provide two proofs of residency. It is also

critically important to update the emergency forms.

ANIMALS

Due to health department regulations, animals are **not** permitted in the classrooms or school at any time.

AUTOMATED PHONE CALLS

Bear Path School uses an automated communication system to efficiently and effectively contact parents. Emergency closings, delayed openings, and reminders of important events are some of the reasons for an automated phone call. Please keep the office informed of contact numbers. Parents may opt out of the notification system by completing a form.

BICYCLES

Students in grades 4, 5, and 6 are eligible to apply for permission to ride a bicycle to and from school. Permission notes will be sent home and must be returned signed by the student and parent/guardian. Students must abide by rules for safe riding, wear a helmet and use a chain and lock for the bicycle. Bicycles should never be left overnight. Failure to obey the rules will result in loss of privileges. Bear Path School is not responsible for theft or damage to bicycles while on the school property.

BIRTHDAYS

We enjoy celebrating your child's birthday with you. The faculty and staff are committed to recognizing students for a variety of reasons, including birthdays. Classroom teachers and room parents will coordinate procedures for celebrating student birthdays. All celebrations will conform to the requirements of Hamden's Wellness Plan, specifically that "all foods available on school grounds and at school-sponsored activities before and during the instructional day must meet or exceed Connecticut's Healthy Snack Standards for Food and Beverages at School or selected from the list of recommended healthy food choices listed in Appendix B." We strongly encourage non-food ways to celebrate, such as serving as a guest reader, donating a favorite book to the classroom library, or sharing celebratory pencils. Please contact school administration if you have any questions.

BULLYING

The Hamden Board of Education promotes a secure and happy school climate conducive to teaching and learning that is free from threat, harassment and any type of bullying behavior. Therefore it shall be the policy of the Board that bullying of a student by another student is prohibited.

"Bullying" means an act that is direct or indirect and severe, persistent or pervasive which:

- causes physical or emotional harm to an individual
- places an individual in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm, or
- infringes on the rights and opportunities of an individual at school.

Bullying shall include, but need not be limited to, a written, oral or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin,

gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socio-economic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics. (The student against whom the activity is directed must be attending school in the same district as the students engaged in the activity.)

Examples of bullying include, but are not limited to:

1. physical violence and attacks;
2. verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs including ethnically-based or gender-based verbal put-downs;
3. threats and intimidation;
4. extortion or stealing of money and/or possessions;
5. exclusion from peer groups within the school;
6. The misuse of electronic communications for the purpose of bullying, harassing, or sexually harassing other students within school or out of school ("cyberbullying");
7. targeting a student at the school for actual or perceived "differentiating" characteristics such as race; color; religion; ancestry; national origin; gender; sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; socioeconomic or academic status; physical appearance; or mental, physical, developmental, or sensory disability.

Such conduct is disruptive of the educational process and, therefore, bullying is not acceptable behavior in this district and is prohibited.

Students who engage in any act of bullying, on school grounds, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by the Board of Education, or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by the Board of Education, and outside of the school setting if such bullying:

1. creates a hostile environment at school for the victim,
2. infringes on the rights of the victim at school, or
3. substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school,

are subject to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement officials.

School officials must investigate bullying when it occurs:

- A. On school grounds, at a school-sponsored or school related activity, function, or program whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of education, or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased, or used by the local or regional board of education, and
- B. Outside of the school setting if such bullying:
 - a. creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom such bullying was directed,
 - b. infringes on the rights of the student against whom such bullying

- was directed at school, or
- c. substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

If a student feels that s/he has been bullied, or a parent feels that his/her child has been bullied, s/he should report this to any Bear Path staff member who will begin an investigation per Board of Education policy. Reports of suspected bullying should be specific to the actions including bullying time and place of the conduct alleged, the number of such incidents, the target of such suspected bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. When acts of bullying are verified and a disciplinary response is warranted, students are subject to the full range of disciplinary consequences.

BUS RIDERS & SAFETY

Students are assigned to a bus based on their street address from the records on file. Students must wait for their bus at their designated stop.

Students are not allowed to arbitrarily change their bus stop since buses going to and from school carry a full capacity daily. If a situation should arise in which your child will need to take a bus with another student that he/she is not assigned to, your child **must** have a note stating what bus number they are taking and who they are going home with. The student your child is going home with **must** also have a note from their parent/guardian as well.

Students must follow the instructions of the bus driver and remain in their seat while the bus is in motion. The bus driver may assign students a seat. This measure is in the best interest of the safety of the children. Eating or drinking is not allowed on the bus.

Parents should supervise their children at the bus stop for safety. If a child misbehaves on the bus or at the bus stop, the child may lose bus privileges and the parent will have to transport the child to and from school. **Parents are not allowed to board the bus!**

Any student not taking a bus home (i.e., being picked up) must have a note from his or her parent/guardian. Without a note, the student will be sent home in his/her normal manner.

The Board of Education Transportation Safety Committee suggests that principals share the following information with parents/guardians, students and staff:

- School bus drivers have requested that adults who are present at bus stops carefully supervise younger children. Toddlers who wander away from adults present potentially serious safety problems.
- If a student's behavior is unsafe or does not correspond to the PACK expectations, the student may be referred to the principal who may assign disciplinary appropriate consequences, including possible bus suspension. Disciplinary action is at the discretion of the school principal, or her designee, in accordance with the Hamden Board of Education School Policy.
- In the event of bus problems or incidents, please call the following numbers:

First Student Bus Company	203-288-2887
Dawn Albizu, Transportation Supervisor, HPS	203-407-2423
Bear Path School	203-407-2015

CELL PHONES

It is highly recommended that cell phones remain at home. If brought to school, all cell phones are to be **turned OFF and should be left in the student's backpack**. The use of cell phones should be for emergency use ONLY and in presence of a staff member. Cell phones will be confiscated and turned over to the parent/guardian if the cell phone is seen or heard for any reason other than an emergency.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Each student, teacher and staff member is expected to demonstrate:
Respect, Responsibility, Kindness and Safety to help promote a positive school climate.

Be Respectful

Listen to adults and classmates
Be polite
Take care of school property and materials
Use quiet voices
Control your emotions
Practice good sportsmanship and fair play
Be kind

Be Responsible

Follow directions
Be in school
Be on time
Clean up after yourself
Be helpful
Do your best work

Be safe

Keep hands and feet to self
Follow rules
Dress appropriately

COMMUNICATING CONCERNS

If you or your child is experiencing a school-related problem, please let the school know. Call our office at 407-2015 and leave a message with Ms. Cappiello, the school secretary. The appropriate school personnel will get back to you as soon as possible. Please remember that all staff are involved with teaching and cannot be interrupted unless there is an emergency and we can get someone to cover their class. The appropriate staff member will return your call or email within 24 hours of receiving your message.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Due to state statutes, school personnel are not allowed to give out the names, addresses or phone numbers of students.

DAMAGED OR LOST INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

According to Board of Education Policy #6162, students will be assessed full replacement cost of lost or destroyed items and a proportionate amount for damaged materials.

Payment must be made before the end of the school year or the student will be denied their report card, transcript and copies of records and recommendations.

DEFIBRILLATORS IN SCHOOLS (AED's)

Each school will have (1) one automatic external defibrillator (AED) and (2) school personnel trained in AED operation and cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The AED and trained personnel will be available during the school's normal operational hours, at school-sponsored athletic events and practices on school grounds and at school-sponsored events not taking place during normal school operational hours. The school also has an emergency action response plan addressing the use of trained school personnel to

respond to individuals experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or similar life threatening emergencies.

DELAYED OPENINGS AND SCHOOL CLOSINGS

A delayed opening, early dismissal, or an emergency closing for the day may occur at anytime during the school year. These are done for emergency reasons but not exclusive to inclement weather. When school is closed for the day, all afternoon or evening activities are canceled except when special permission is granted by the Superintendent. Media outlets will report these closings as "Hamden Public Schools".

Delayed Opening

During a delayed opening, school buses will pick up your child at the normal time plus the time of the delay. (Ex: If the bus normally picks your child up at 8:10 AM and there is a 2-hour delay, the bus will pick your child up at 10:10 AM).

Emergency Closing

There is no set time to dismiss school for an emergency school closing. An automated call and/or text message will be made from the district in the event there is an emergency closing so it is *imperative* that we always have current contact information.

DISMISSAL

- We will begin dismissal at 3:35 PM with pickups and walkers. Cars will cue up and follow staff directions. Students will be wearing masks as they exit the building and can remove them once they are safely in the vehicle. Social distancing will be enforced.
- Parents will receive a **Rear View Mirror Sign** that provides staff with the last name and grades of students at a glance. This sign can be held or attached to the rearview mirror for ease of access (For safety reasons, please do not leave signs visible in your car when not in use.)
- Parents/Guardians that are walking onto the property are asked to wait at the top of the bus loop. Please remain on the sidewalk. A staff member with a walkie talkie will call your children to you.
- Bus dismissal will begin around 3:35. The students will load the bus by bus stop. The last stop will load first and sit to the back of the bus. Students will be expected to adhere to the bus rules. Students must wear masks while walking to the bus and while on the bus.

Other Dismissal Reminders

- Please write your last name and the grades of your students in bold marker.
- Place the card on the rearview mirror or on the dashboard in full view.
- If you forget the sign or have a different car, please write the last name and grade on paper and put it on the dashboard.
- Always be prepared to show identification when picking up.
- If anyone other than the custodial adult is picking up a student, we must have received an email or note before we can release the student.

- Email the classroom teacher and lcappiello@hamden.org for all dismissal changes.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Student safety is our top priority and we know this will take a little longer at first while everyone learns the system.

DISTRICT-WIDE TESTING

Hamden Public Schools is mandated to offer the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) assessment in the spring each year to all students in grades 3-6 who meet eligibility requirements. The SBAC is intended to assess student knowledge in the areas of mathematics and reading. In grade 5, students are also assessed utilizing the Next Generation Science Assessment.

Other district-wide assessments are given to students to determine academic progress and to inform teachers who will plan appropriate instruction for students. NWEA's MAP assessment, Concepts About Print (CAP), Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA2), Fountas & Pinell Reading Assessment (F&P), and Math Benchmark Assessments are some examples of assessment tools.

These assessments may also be used to determine whether a student is in need of SRBI (Scientific Research-Based Intervention). SRBI operates within the general education setting and provides a tiered support system that allows all students to experience continuous growth in any identified areas of weakness in a small group or 1 on 1 setting. You will be notified by letter if your child is included in SRBI supports.

DRESS CODE

The dress code is one of reasonableness. If you or your child questions the appropriateness of an outfit, then they should not wear it. If a question should arise, it will be dealt with on an individual basis by the principal and parent/guardian. Parents might be asked to bring a change of clothing to school if a student's outfit is deemed inappropriate or disruptive. Clothing should be appropriate for the active school day. Rubber soled shoes are required for the gym and are appropriate for everyday wear. Caps and hats may not be worn indoors except on special days designated by the principal.

ELECTRIC DEVICES (INCLUDING CELL PHONES)

Students must be focused on learning throughout the school day. The use of hand held games, electronic devices, and cellular phones are prohibited. These items must remain turned off and stored appropriately during the instructional day in a student's backpack. If a device is improperly stored or is being used during the school day, it will be collected by a staff member and turned in to the office. Additionally, students are not allowed to bring laser light pens to school. These devices can cause possible harm to eyes and can be disruptive to the learning environment. A parent or guardian must come in to claim the phone. The school is NOT responsible for the loss or damage to any of these devices.

EMOTIONAL LITERACY PROGRAM

Choose Love for Schools™ is a no cost, next-generation social and emotional learning (SEL) and character education program for Pre-K through 12th grades, designed to teach students, educators and staff how to choose love in any circumstance thereby creating a safer, more connected school culture.

Aligned with CASEL, Common Core and ASCA, Choose Love For Schools is also the first SEL program to fully incorporate state of the art Character Social Emotional Development (CSED) model standards, while also incorporating neuroscience and positive psychology to teach mindfulness, character, and emotional intelligence. These essential life skills and tools make students better learners, more desirable employees and happier, healthier, human beings.

Choose Love For Schools has four components which students practice throughout the year:

1. Courage
2. Gratitude
3. Forgiveness
4. Compassion

If you would like more information or to use this free program at home, please go to chooselovemovement.org.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips must be directly linked to the curriculum and planned by the teacher. Our PTA raises money to supplement the cost of buses and admission fees for trips. A limited number of parent chaperones help supervise the students during the trips. If you are asked to help, you may be requested to ride the bus with the class.

FREE and REDUCED LUNCH

The guidelines and application for free or reduced lunch will be made available to you. Although breakfast and lunch will be at no-cost to families this year, please fill the application out and return it as soon as possible so that we can maintain our reporting for the state. All applications will be processed immediately. **Regulations state that families must reapply each year, regardless of eligibility the prior year.**

HEALTH/ILLNESS

Our school nurse has asked for your help in several areas regarding the health of our children.

Changes in your child's health status should be reported to the school nurse as soon as possible. This will ensure that accurate and up-to-date health information is on file for your child in the school health office.

Administration of medication in school:

If your child must take medication while at school, including any over the counter drugs, it can be administered under the following conditions only.

1. An authorization form provided by school personnel is completed and signed by both the primary health care provider and parent/ guardian (even for over the counter drugs).
2. Medication, not to exceed a 45-day supply, comes to school in the original bottle or container, properly labeled with the child's name; the name, strength

and dosage of the medication; time for administration; date and number of prescriptions.

3. An adult delivers the medication to the school nurse or the principal.
4. Children are not allowed to transport medication to and from school. Please contact the school nurse if you have any questions or need the proper forms for these authorizations.

Cough drops are permitted with a parent/guardian note. All cough drops must be brought to school by a parent/guardian or an adult designated by the parent/guardian. The cough drops are to be kept by the nurse in her office.

Student illness: If a student becomes ill during the school day, the school nurse or principal will assess the child and determine the best course of action. If the child is too ill to return to class, the parent/guardian will be notified to make arrangements for the student to be taken home.

If your child complains of "not feeling well" or was sent home ill the previous day, please assess his /her condition before sending him/her to school. Students who come to school ill or return too soon are often unable to function at their best and may cause other students to become sick. Please note the following guidelines:

1. Any child with an elevated temperature of 100 degrees or more should remain home until his/her temperature has been normal without medication for 24 hours.
2. If your child vomits or has diarrhea in the morning before school, he/she should stay home. Generally, children should stay home at least 24 hours after the last episode of fever, vomiting or diarrhea.
3. If your child has a rash which you would like to be checked by the school nurse, please accompany him/her to school in the event exclusion from school due to suspicion of communicable disease is necessary.
4. Inform the school nurse regarding any diagnosis of communicable disease (strep throat, chicken pox, mononucleosis, head lice, pink eye, etc.). Children being treated for a communicable disease may return to school after a full 24 hours of antibiotic therapy. Students must also be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. Please contact the school nurse if you have any questions

Parent(s)/guardian(s) must be available to school personnel AT ALL TIMES in case your child becomes ill or injured at school. Unlisted telephone numbers or a reliable alternate number must be provided to school officials for confidential use in case of illness or accident. Cell phones are an excellent resource. Alternate persons listed for emergency purposes must be able to provide transportation home from school. Alternate persons must have a picture ID in order to have your child released to them. This simple measure is paramount to our student's safety.

Students out ill for more than five (5) consecutive days must see the school nurse before returning to the classroom.

HOMEWORK TIPS

1. Provide a positive homework atmosphere for your child that is free of clutter and distractions, including television.
2. Show your child that you are interested in their work. Re-explain assignments if necessary and check to see that homework is completed.

3. If your child is struggling with a particular subject, and you aren't able to help them yourself, a tutor can be a good solution. Talk it over with your child's teacher first.
4. Hamden Public School's homework policy is available at www.hamden.org. Should you have concerns about the amount or type of homework coming home, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

INAPPROPRIATE ITEMS

Students are to bring to school only items that are needed for instruction. Students are not allowed to bring **Game Boys, CD players, Walkmans or other non-educational electronic devices to school**. According the Hamden Board of Education Policy, **under no circumstances may a student bring a toy or real weapon to school**. This includes water guns, cap guns, nail clippers, knives or any other item that may cause a distraction or harm another person.

LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER

The library/media center is a place for information and research and books, magazines, technology, and research materials are available to all students. In order to operate efficiently, guidelines must be followed:

1. The library/media center opens and closes with the school day, unless other arrangements have been made.
2. A replacement fee will be charged for books lost, destroyed or not returned.
3. Students must have permission from a teacher to visit the library/ media center.
4. Failure to return borrowed items, or make restitution, may affect a child's ability to borrow books and/or a student's report card being held at the end of the school year until the obligation to the school is met.

LUNCH SCHEDULE

Grade	Recess	Lunch		Early Dismissal Recess	Early Dismissal Lunch
5	10:50-11:10	11:15-11:35		10:50-11:10	11:15-11:35
K & 1	11:15-11:35	11:40-12:00		11:15-11:35	10:50-11:10
4	11:40-12:00	12:05-12:25		11:40-12:00	11:15-11:35
2	12:05-12:25	12:30-12:50		11:15-11:35	11:40-12:00
6	12:30-12:50	12:55-1:15		12:05-12:25	12:30-12:50
3	12:55-1:15	1:20-1:40		12:30-12:50	12:05-12:25

NOTICES

You will receive a variety of announcements throughout the year. We will make every effort to send all notices home weekly. In addition, weekly school newsletters will be posted on the school website. If you are not receiving emails or notices from the school and your child's teacher, please call the office to ensure that we have your correct contact information.

PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

The PTA is the collaborative of parents, teachers and administration that exist for the sole purpose of enhancing the educational experience for all children. The PTA works year round to raise funds for field trips, cultural enrichment, year end activities, teacher appreciation, scholarships, academic awards, etc. Your commitment to the PTA sends a strong message to students, teachers, administration, and the Board of Education and Town officials about the strength of united efforts on the behalf of our students. The Bear Path PTA meets on the last Wednesday of every month (except September) from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. (Dates in Handbook)

PROBLEMS

Hamden Board of Education policy urges parents to seek early solutions for school-related concerns and to begin their attempts by contacting the staff member most closely involved. This means usually contacting the teacher first and then the principal if needed. Besides the teachers and principal, you may call the school psychologist, the social worker, the speech and language clinician, and the resource teacher.

If you or your child is experiencing a school-related problem, please let the school know. Call our office at 203-407-2015 and leave a message with the secretary. Voice mail is available for your convenience. The appropriate school personnel will get back to you as soon as possible. Please remember that all staff are involved with teaching and cannot be interrupted unless there is an emergency and we can get someone to cover their class. The principal will return your call within 24 hours of receiving your message.

RECESS

Recess is an important time when students can socialize with their peers. During this time, students learn how to cooperate with others to organize or create games and activities and converse with friends. Weather permitting, children will have recess outside. Please make sure your child is wearing appropriate clothing and footwear and these articles are clearly labeled. In the event of inclement weather, students will have indoor recess. Students should not bring any toys, games, sports equipment, electronic games or other devices to school for recess. This will eliminate any difficulty with personal property damage or theft. Although we believe that students need exercise and structured social time, there may be occasions when a student may need an alternative recess placement for safety reasons, at the discretion of the principal.

VALUABLES

Common sense and consideration are the best guide in determining whether or not to bring personal possessions to school. The school administrator and staff cannot be responsible for valuables which students bring to school. It is recommended that students leave all valuables at home. If special circumstances make it necessary for a student to bring substantial cash or other important possessions to school, leaving them in the main office can safeguard these items.

WELLNESS POLICY

At any school function (parties, celebrations, receptions, sporting events, etc.) healthy food choice options should be available to students. Some suggested foods are:

- Raw vegetable sticks
- Fresh fruit and 100% fruit juice
- Low-fat meats and cheese sandwiches

- Party mix (variety of cereals, nuts, pretzels, etc.)
- Low-sodium crackers
- Low-fat granola bars
- Flavored yogurt
- Low-fat pudding cups
- Low-fat yogurts
- Low-fat and skim milk products
- Water

Wellness

Student wellness, including good nutrition and physical activity, is promoted through the District's educational program, school activities, and meal programs. Federal and state standards will be met pertaining to all foods and beverages available for sale to students. A sequential program of physical education is provided, in addition to time in the elementary school day for supervised recess.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Questions, concerns or complaints regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act 1991 should call Vanessa Ditta at 203-407-2059 for matters involving students and Erin Bailey at 203-407-2025 for issues involving staff or other adults.

SEXUAL HARRASSMENT POLICY

The Board of Education prohibits sexual harassment or intimidation of its students and employees. Any student or employee who believes he or she has been the subject of sexual harassment should contact the district's Equity/Title IX Coordinator Vanessa Ditta at 407-2059.

NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY

The Hamden Board of Education is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and it does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, and physical or mental handicaps.

