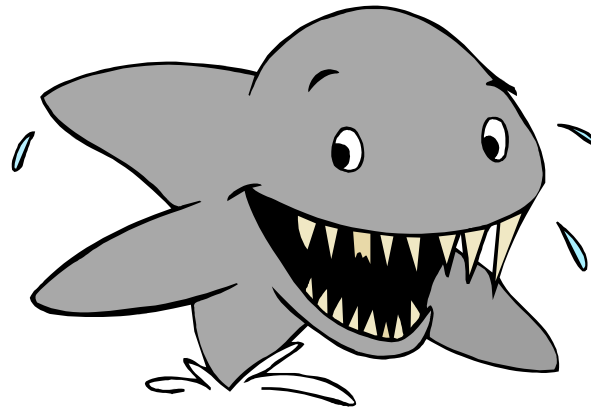


Shamona Creek Elementary



Homeroom Parent Guide

Guide Includes:

Homeroom Parent Responsibilities

School Policy

Teacher/Staff Questionnaire

Homeroom Parents

The Homeroom Parent is a facilitator/liaison between the parents and the classroom teacher. Homeroom Parents assist and guide classroom families throughout the school year to carry out their responsibilities. Their commitment to your child's teacher, the school and its families will nurture the growth of our school's community as we work together.

Work with the Teacher

- Maintain good communication with your child's teacher
- Your teacher will let you know what is expected of you
- Parent involvement will vary from teacher to teacher
- Have your teacher fill out the "All About Our Teacher" form and share the information with your class parents

Relaying Information to Parents

- Communicate volunteer need with other parents/guardians (i.e. email)
- Be available to answer any questions from parents about classroom events
- Organize and collect donations for the Spring Fair Baskets
- Help enlist volunteers for various Shamona Creek functions throughout the year

Organizing Classroom Parties/Events

- Organize various homeroom parties and events throughout the year with your teacher and your families
- Make parents aware of your class celebrations
- Organize a sign up for help and/or donated items
- Please be sure to follow guidelines listed in the Shamona Creek Handbook when planning your safe and healthy event

Attend Home & School Meetings

- You are encouraged to attend these meetings to give you a better understanding of what is going on at Shamona Creek throughout the year
- You will be asked to remind your parents of these meetings, encouraging them to attend as well since they are a great way to get to know one another

Time and Talent Donations

- Share opportunities and duties with all interested parents as equitably as possible
- Some parents may have time to give, while others would prefer to give donations rather than time
- All donations are voluntary
- Always give volunteers adequate notification of events and event needs

Class List

- Will be provided by your teacher
- Please remember this is for school purposes only and not to be used for solicitation

Thank you for volunteering!

Shamona Creek Elementary

SCHOOL POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The policies and procedures enclosed are provided to facilitate a smooth operation of our school with minimal interruption to instructional time. *These procedures should be followed when hosting a class party or events at the school involving school children held after school hours.*

HEALTH AND MEDICAL

Latex Allergies: Our school is a “latex safe” environment. As such, latex products, particularly latex balloons and latex gloves are not permitted in the school.

Nut Allergies: Due to the number of students with allergies to nuts and nut oils, parents are asked to be conscientious of foods that may cause an adverse reaction for some children. A nut free table is provided in the cafeteria and classroom activities with food must follow the guidelines of the Wellness Policy as stated below.

WELLNESS POLICY

***Any classroom activity with food must be approved by the principal one week in advance. Teachers are required to submit a form that indicates the food and ingredients. Please work with teachers to coordinate any events involving food.**

The Downingtown Area School District School Board Policy #246, Student Wellness, addresses concerns around student obesity, nutrition, exercise, and overall wellness.

The DASD Policy has established the following guidelines relative to food:

- Food MAY NOT be used as a reward
- Food items MAY NOT be provided for birthday celebrations
- Food MAY be used as part of the curriculum using the following nutritional guidelines:
 - One food item which contains sugar as the first ingredient
 - Water, 100% fruit juice or milk
 - Are moderate in sodium content
 - Provide minimal to no trans fatty acids
 - Provide items that contain > 2 grams of fiber/serving
 - Do not offer any Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value
- Food MAY be included in classroom parties/celebrations (excluding birthdays) using the following guidelines:
 - One food item which contains sugar as the first ingredient AND fresh fruits and vegetables.
 - The following individually packaged items may also be provided:
 - Sun Chips, choose from Regular or Garden Salsa – 1.5 oz.
 - Pepperidge Farm Goldfish – 1 oz.
 - Nabisco Teddy Bear Graham Minis - .5 oz.
 - Rold Gold Pretzel Tiny Twists – 1 oz.
 - Kellogg’s Rice Krispie Treats – 1.3 oz.
 - Quaker Snack Kids Mix – 7/8 oz.
 - Land O Lakes String Cheese, Light Low Moisture, Part Skim - 1 oz.
 - Water 8 oz.
 - 100% Apple Juice – 4 oz.

- Milk, 1% Low Fat White – 8 oz.

Parents and teachers may purchase these food items or comparable items from an outside food vendor.

Birthday Celebrations: Birthdays are a special time for students and we need your support. While many families enjoy special food treats at home, in accordance with the DASD Wellness Policy and our School Health Committee, no food items will be allowed at school for birthday celebrations. This practice will help support healthy alternatives for celebration, reduce interruptions in class time, and will help protect the large number of children who have a variety of food related allergies. Any food items sent in for birthday celebrations will be returned home. Alternatives to food related items include pencils, stickers or other small, school-related items. Each grade level may have their own suggestions for ways to celebrate birthdays.

Balloons of any kind are not allowed in the school building.

VOLUNTEERS and VISITORS

THE DOWNINGTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT WELCOMES ALL VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS TO OUR SCHOOL WHO HAVE BEEN INVITED BY THE PRINCIPAL OR BY THE PRINCIPAL'S DESIGNEE.

VOLUNTEER POLICY

The School Board recently approved a new policy (Policy 916) regarding required background checks for all school volunteers. This applies to anyone who offers more than one day of volunteer time. The goal of this policy is to ensure that all who come into contact with our students have successfully obtained the required safety clearances.

The new volunteer policy will apply to parents and all other members of the DASD community who volunteer in our schools or serve as field trip chaperones. The new policy states:

- 1) Background checks are now required for all volunteers. (Previously only chaperones needed to obtain these clearances)
- 2) Volunteers are now required to obtain background checks every five years. If you obtained both the child abuse and criminal history clearances within the past two years, you would have another three or four years of eligibility remaining before having to re-submit for new clearances.
- 3) Volunteers must now present proof of a tuberculosis exam. The cost of the examination will be the responsibility of the volunteer unless a financial hardship can be established. Examination costs for senior citizens serving as volunteers shall be at the expense of the district. The district also strongly recommends our volunteers obtaining a pertussis vaccine.
- 4) All volunteers must sign a Volunteer Disclosure Form each year.

The cost for acquiring the two clearance reports is \$20. Please be assured that no parent will be denied the opportunity to volunteer at his or her child's school because of financial need. If the ability to pay for the reports becomes a barrier, the District will assist in making sure the necessary clearances are acquired. More information about clearances can be found on our website.

Many school districts nationwide are instituting similar policies as our entire educational system focuses on safety. We recognize that our volunteers make valuable contributions to our educational, athletic and extracurricular programs. Please see Board Policy #916 for the new policy and guidelines.

VOLUNTEERS

The presence of volunteers in the classroom creates issues of sensitivity and confidentiality for all volunteers. To uphold the credibility of this valuable program, it is imperative that volunteers:

- Do not discuss the performance and behavior of individual children either inside or outside the school.
- Avoid discussing teachers and/or teaching methods.
- Discuss any concerns with the Volunteer Coordinator or Principal.
- Act in a professional manner.

We ask that all volunteers:

1. Sign in and out every time they enter and leave the building. (This is for safety in case of fire as well as knowing who is in the building at all times for safety purposes).
2. Fill out an emergency information card.
3. Wear a designated ID while in the building and turn it in when leaving.
4. Call the school office as soon as possible if unable to volunteer on assigned day.
5. Be consistent and reliable with time.
6. Avoid visiting or wandering through instructional areas that could distract children and teachers.
7. Do not bring younger children to school when volunteering.
8. Classroom volunteer time is at the teacher's discretion.
9. Wear appropriate, tasteful attire that will not interfere with the educational focus.
10. Never interrupt teachers or instruction in the classroom.
11. Keep the Faculty Room reserved for staff members, please.
12. Contact classroom teachers to receive instruction on the use of any classroom equipment and see the Volunteer Coordinator (or building aide) for instruction with other school equipment. Please give staff members priority when operating the copy machine or other office equipment.
13. Check with assigned teacher for specific instructions for the day.
14. Become familiar with school policy as outlined in this handbook.
15. Expect respect and appropriate behavior from students. Please report any problems to the teacher in charge.
16. Be an example to children by observing all school rules in a professional manner.
17. Avoid disruptive talking in the hallways.
18. Communicate with the teacher if uncomfortable with a specific task. We want your experience to be positive and rewarding.
19. Have fun working in our school.

VISITORS

Visitors, including parents, must secure permission and make arrangements with the principal or teacher prior to any visit in an area of the building or school grounds. Visitors, including parents, are also required to sign the building log and wear a visitor badge, which is maintained in the office, before reporting to an area of the building or school grounds.

For reasons of liability, elementary aged children are not permitted to visit unless accompanied by their parents, and only with the approval of the teacher(s) involved, as well as the principal.

Thank you for being an active participant in your child's education!

All About Our Teacher

If you have a few moments to fill this questionnaire out, we would love to get to know you better.

Your Birthday: _____

Favorite Color: _____

Favorite Candy: _____

Favorite Scent: _____

Favorite Dessert: _____

Favorite Drink: _____

Favorite Magazine: _____

Favorite Restaurant: _____

Favorite Snack: _____

Favorite Place to Shop: _____

Favorite Hobbies: _____

Favorite Flower: _____

Favorite Charity: _____

Classroom Wish List: _____

You collect: _____

You are allergic to: _____

You would prefer not to receive, or simply have too much of:

Thank You!