

**DAWSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
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Wachusett Regional School District

**PATRICIA A. SCALES**  
Principal  
**BARBARA M. DIAMOND**  
Assistant Principal

*“Developing our students’  
knowledge, skills and talents  
to the fullest so they  
can make the world  
a better place for all.”*

February 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians of Incoming Dawson Kindergarten Students,

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you and your child who will be entering kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year to the Dawson School family! If this is your first child to attend our school, I am pleased to welcome you to one of the finest public school programs in the area and the spirited Dawson School community. If you currently have or have had other children attending Dawson, I am quite happy for this opportunity for us to provide our quality elementary school experience to another member of your family! Mrs. Katelyn Mercer teaches one section of morning and one section of afternoon kindergarten and Mrs. Mandie Flynn teaches one section of morning. Mrs. Wendy Zinkus teaches a full-day K program. They are assisted by Kindergarten Aides, Mrs. Kathy Mahoney, Mrs. Nancy Bousquet, and Mrs. Mary Kennedy respectively.

Academically, Dawson School students have performed very high within a school system that is one of the highest performing overall in the State of Massachusetts, which leads the nation in student achievement.

As you can tell from our mission statement in our letterhead at the top of this page, we at Dawson believe that we hold a responsibility to develop and reinforce strong character and positive values within our students. The Dawson School staff prides itself in working hard to insure that our students do well in both the academic and personal/social development domains!

All registration forms are available on the Wachusett Regional School District website. If you are unable to download the registration materials, please contact Mrs. Dwyer, the school secretary, and she will mail it to you. Once you have completed all forms you may mail them or drop them off at school.

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT DAWSON SCHOOL - ENCLOSED**

At this time of registration, I am providing you with a copy of a special *Principal’s Message* to new Dawson School families. Please review it, paying particular attention to the section explaining our schoolwide theme, “IALAC”, and the significance of our school mascot, the *dolphin*, and the *Lessons of the Geese*, which we try to apply in our efforts to build the most effective school team possible!

**KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION – Wednesday, June 6th, 2012**

The goal of Kindergarten Orientation is for students to meet the kindergarten teachers, see a kindergarten classroom and the school prior to the first day of classes. Parents will meet directly with School’s administrators and parent leaders, and have an opportunity to ask questions. **This year’s Orientation will be held on Wednesday, June 6, 2012** at either 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. or at 1:45 - 2:45 p.m. Once registrations are received I will send you a letter assigning an Orientation Session. On **June 6th**, parents will take their children to the Kindergarten classrooms where the children will meet with one of the kindergarten teachers and aides, while their parents meet with the school administrators and representatives from the Dawson Parent-Teacher Association (PTA).

**ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS TO SESSIONS (MORNING/AFTERNOON):**

**Morning Kindergarten = 9:00 -11:45 a.m.**, with students allowed to enter the building no earlier than 8:50 a.m.

**Afternoon Kindergarten = 12:45-3:30 p.m.**, with students allowed to enter the building at 12:40 p.m.

**Students are assigned to the morning or afternoon session of kindergarten according to their home address.**

This is to consolidate transportation routes and minimize the amount of time kindergarten students spend on their bus ride home or to school at mid-day.

*Students will remain in the same session for the entire kindergarten year.* The number of sections for each session will be determined once total enrollment, budget and staffing allocations are finalized. For the current year, there are two morning and two afternoon sections of Kindergarten, as well as one full-day section.

**NOTIFICATION OF SESSION ASSIGNMENT:**

The goal is to **tentatively** determine which addresses will be assigned to the morning vs. the afternoon sessions of Kindergarten for next year by the date of the Kindergarten Orientation Program on June 6th. The goal for finalization of session assignment and teacher is early summer, provided that the school budget is finalized.

**NOTE REGARDING REQUESTING SPECIAL PLACEMENT:**

*As explained above, students **will be placed into sessions according to their home address.** Please **do not request a specific session for your child, unless there is a medical situation that you believe needs to be given special consideration.** Kindergarten sessions and sections need to be equalized in terms of population. Students moving in during the summer need to be placed by home address. **Therefore, except for special medical considerations, requests for placement in the session different from that assigned by home address cannot be acted upon for approval/disapproval until immediately before the school year begins in September.** All requests must be made **in writing** to the Principal. If the request for a change of session is ever granted, transportation at mid-day either home from AM or to school for PM **becomes the responsibility of the parent** as the kindergarten sessions are set up by geography to accommodate specific bus routing.*

**IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING CHILD CARE:**

If your child is going to be at child care either before or after their session, **childcare should be arranged at a location as close to your home as possible.** **If it is not, you will have to provide for the transportation of your child at mid-day.** **We do not transport to childcare settings that are not on the bus route for a session.** (Note: Traditionally, the Jewish Community Center has provided its own transportation at mid-day for students enrolled in its *Kinder Care* program. Other pre-school or childcare settings generally have not provided their own transportation.)

\* \* \*

**Please call Dawson School Nurse, Mrs. Gina Brown, R.N., at 508-829-6828, Ext. 350, beginning on March 1 to schedule an appointment in March if your child has a medical issue.**

Dawson School enjoys a reputation for having a high level of family involvement in the school, a very competent, extremely hard -working and dedicated staff, and an emphasis on both the attainment of strong academic skills and development of positive values and attitudes within its students. I am enthused to welcome you and your child to our School family!

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Scales, Principal