

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How should my child dress for school and in case of bad weather?

All students go outside daily for recess even during winter months unless it is raining or temperatures and wind chills are unacceptable as determined by administration. Therefore, please make sure that your child is properly dressed even to come into the building from the car. Make sure that they have coat, hat and gloves. It is also a good idea to provide layers for when we are inside the building; it can occasionally become too hot or too chilly.

What should I do if I have a problem with an event or an individual at my child's school?

The first contact for any concerns in the classroom should be your child's teacher. An honest conversation between parent and teacher is usually the easiest way to resolve most concerns and helps build a relationship with your child's teacher. If your concerns are not resolved, then the next step may be to make an appointment to speak with the school principal. The final step for a situation that is still unresolved is to contact one of the District's two Executive Directors at the Achievement Service Center 336-5000, for additional assistance.

What will happen if my child becomes ill or seriously injured at school: To the best of our ability we will contact you if your child becomes ill or seriously injured while attending school. Please be prepared to pick up your child in a timely manner. It is critical that the school can reach you in the event that your child becomes ill or seriously injured at school. **Please make sure that if your phone numbers including, home, cell or emergency contacts, or your address changes that you notify the school to record this change.**

What do I do if my child is sick or absent?

Each day your child is ill and remains home from school you must call the school or your child will be reported as Truant (absent without reason). When calling the school the staff will ask you for two symptoms. The school nurse then reports the various symptoms to the Scott County Health Department to help track various outbreaks within our county and state such as flu or food borne illnesses. Your child's name is never reported, only a list of symptoms.

- **Fever:** Any temperature at or above 100 degrees. Your child must be fever-free without the help of fever reducing products before returning to school.
- **Vomiting and/or Diarrhea:** Confirmed by an adult. Your child must not return to school until 24 hours after the last episode. This means if your child gets ill in the middle of the night, please keep him/her home until the next school day.
- **Persistent Cough and Runny Nose:** If your child's greenish/yellow discharge or cough interrupts the normal day or is so disruptive that other students cannot focus; he/she should stay home or will be sent home.
- **Head Lice/Bed Bugs/Fleas:** Head lice, bed bugs, or fleas are not a health concern but it is a public nuisance and is a parent's responsibility. We ask that you regularly check your child's head. The school nurse will check if a teacher or parent requests it. If you find lice or bugs and need assistance with treatment, instructions for treatment or resources, please contact the school nurse.

How do the school nurses help my child?

A staff of professional nurses as well as paraprofessional staff provides a variety of health services to students. School nurses provide information on preventative measures that can help your child stay active and healthy. Screenings include a vision screening, hearing test, and confirmation that your child has received a dental screening. School nurses also work with parents to ensure that students with issues such as diabetes, food allergies, and special dietary needs, to name a few, are provided with safe care during the school day. Additional information on health services and forms can be found at on our website at <http://www.davenportschools.org/parent-and-student-resources/health-services/>

What about the school lunches? It's been years since I've eaten in a school cafeteria.

The goal of our school lunch program is to provide nutritious, appetizing meals for students at a reasonable price. Lunches have a protein source, choices of fruits/vegetables, whole grains and milk. Many families have busy mornings trying to get everyone out of the door on time for school and work.

Your child's school offers a nutritious breakfast option at a great price, too. If you'd like to come have lunch with you child so you can check out the school lunch offerings you can make arrangements through the school. Additional information, including school menus, can be found on our website at <http://www.davenportschools.org/our-schools/school-meals/>

Payment for school lunches can be made at the school office or online through our TouchBase payment system. You will need a Parent Portal account. You can learn more about the advantages of your Parent Portal account and sign up for your account at <http://www.davenportschools.org/parent-and-student-resources/parent-portal/> You can also contact the office at your child's school for assistance.

What is the "Kindergarten Testing" that's listed on the calendar? Should I be worried that my child has to take a test before the first day of school?

Absolutely not! It's really not a "test." Sometime before the first full student day of Kindergarten, your child sits down with a teacher, one-on-one. The teacher asks a brief series of questions to gain insight about your child's reading and math readiness. Some of the areas your child may be asked about include letter names and sounds, colors, and number sense. It's like playing a very short game. The information from this screening aids the teacher in determining how they can help your child get off to the best possible start in kindergarten. Please note that some of our schools require specific appointments for the testing. Please check with your school for scheduling.

My child will be riding a school bus to kindergarten. I've never ridden a school bus myself. What can I do to help him/her feel comfortable?

Like many new experiences riding the school bus for the first time can seem a little scary. However, our professional bus drivers provide safe transportation to and from school for approximately 6,500 students daily and your child should quickly settle into the routine. The rules to keep in mind are simple:

- *Be at your assigned stop five minutes prior to the arrival of the bus*
- *Board the bus in a single file line*
- *Students are asked to use their best manners to avoid distracting the driver*
- *The driver is the authority on the bus and students will be expected to respond to the driver's instructions*
- *Drop off and pick up routines are established at elementary schools with administrators and teachers available to ensure that students are boarding and getting off the school bus safely. Please ask at the office of your child's school for specific information on procedures.*

Additional information about our bus transportation services can be found on our website at

<http://www.davenportschools.org/our-schools/transportation-services/> If your child has any health issues that may impact their experience on the bus or that the driver should be aware of, please complete a Critical Care Card and/or Epi Pen waiver form to allow administration. The driver will determine which students with a special health condition should sit in the front seats.

I need before or after school care for my child due to my work schedule. Do the schools provide any options?

Absolutely! The Stepping Stones program has provided safe, fun, and enriching before and/or after school programs for Davenport Community Schools elementary students for the past fifteen years. Stepping Stones also offers a summer program. Activities are aligned with the Iowa Core curriculum used in our schools and homework help is available. Before and after school service availability varies by school, so please check out our website at <http://www.davenportschools.org/departments-and-services/before-school-after-school-and-summer-programs/>

Please remember that the office staff at your child's school is also happy to assist you with any questions or concerns. We want your child to enjoy learning in a safe, caring environment and want to work with you to ensure the best possible school experience for your child.