

***Frequently Asked Questions about PK3/PK4 at Ross Elementary***

***August 2017***

Following are the most commonly asked questions about our program. If you have additional questions/concerns, please reach out to Principal Searl. holly.searl@dc.gov

1. **What is the class size?**

We have one PK3 class of 16 students with one teacher and one aide.

We have one PK4 class of 20 students with one teacher and one aide.

\*In-boundary families with siblings enrolled at Ross receive the highest level of preference in the MySchoolDC.org lottery. Historically, we have not had enough spaces to accommodate all in-boundary families. PK3 and PK4 are non-compulsory attendance grades in DC. Therefore, there is no guarantee that your family will be granted a space in the program regardless of your address.

1. **What are the school hours?**

PK3/PK4 school hours are 8:15am-3:15pm Monday through Friday.

There is no before care. Students may eat breakfast in the café at 8:15 under the supervision of a parent/caregiver and must be signed into the classroom by a parent/guardian/caregiver between 8:30-8:45am.

1. **Is there afterschool programming?**

Ross partners with EDCJCC for afterschool programming including enrichment offerings. Registration for the 2017.18 school year begins in June 2017.

For more information, visit http://edcjcc.org/kids-and-parents/kids/enrichment-programs.html

1. **What is the recess/outdoor play plan?**

Children have a 30-minute recess every day before lunch. They also have Physical Education class twice a week. Teachers often take children outside in the late afternoon. PK3/PK4 have recess together. They are not combined with other age groups for recess.

1. **What is the dress code?**

Ross is a uniform school and as such, we expect students to attend school every day in a neat and clean uniform. Students may wear solid navy or khaki bottoms (pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, jumpers) and solid navy, white, or light blue tops. Athletic shoes are recommended for safe play and movement on the stairs. Jeans, halters, athletic wear, costumes, open-toed shoes, shoes with heels, etc are not part of the uniform. Ross t-shirts and Ross sweatshirts may be worn as part of the uniform.

School uniforms can be purchased from a variety of vendors such as Lands End, Old Navy, Target, etc. Please avoid belts and complicated fasteners in order to encourage independence with the bathroom.

1. **How does lunch work?**

Children may bring a lunch from home (no candy, gum or soda) or they may purchase lunch from Ross. We do not heat up home lunches so do not send anything that requires heating at school. Lunch is 30 minutes following recess. Parents must set up an online account for lunch purchases. The DCPS provided vendor for Ross is Sodexo Magic. Breakfast is FREE for all children at Ross every day beginning at 8:15.

If your child has dietary needs, please fill out health form upon enrollment and it will be reviewed by the Café staff and School Nurse.

**For the 2017.18 school year, Ross will be a “nut free” school**. **Do not pack any food containing nuts.**

If you wish to apply for reduced-price or free lunch, forms will be available in July.

1. **What if my child has special needs?**

Please contact Early Stages ([www.earlystagesdc.org)](http://www.earlystagesdc.org)) if you not already scheduled an appointment and contact Principal Searl.

All DCPS schools are staffed with specialists based on student needs. We also have a part-time nurse assigned by the DC Department of Health.

1. **Do students receive art, music and world language instruction?**

All students receive art and music instruction through Fillmore Arts once a week at Ross. http://fillmoreartscenter.org/

Students have Spanish class twice a week.

1. **Are there opportunities for parent involvement?**

The very active, involved Ross PTA welcomes and needs parent volunteers to chair committees and assist with many of their annual activities such as picnics, holiday tree sale, bake sale, service-learning nights, etc. In addition, teachers will welcome parents as chaperones for multiple field trips throughout the year and as guest speakers to share lessons about family cultures and traditions.

Each classroom has a “room parent” who serves as a liaison between the teacher, class parents and the PTA. The PTA encourages 100% of families to join in order to support school programming and resources.

1. **What enrichment opportunities are available?**

Teachers plan a variety of field trips throughout the year. We walk, take Metro, and take private buses to a variety of sites such as Discovery Theatre, Butler’s Orchard and the Kennedy Center. The student enrichment fee paid to the PTA offsets the cost of the field trips and other enrichments.

1. **Do all students have a rest time?**

Yes, all students in PK3/PK4 will have a rest period of at least 60-90 minutes a day depending on a variety of factors. Families will be provided with ordering information for the rest mat and we ask that you send in a small (crib size) blanket.

1. **How is technology used?**

Each classroom teacher has a PTA provided laptop and a flat screen television or Smartboard for projecting visuals during lessons. We do not formally introduce

ipads or laptops until K-1 at Ross. There may be times within specific instructional units that technology is used in limited form.

1. **What supplies will my child need at school?**

The PTA coordinates classroom supply orders in June and you will have an opportunity to purchase supplies through an online order. Teachers will also send home a supply list for additional needs such as change of clothing, family picture, sleeping mat, etc.

1. **What are the attendance requirements?**

We expect students to attend school on-time, every day. When you commit to DCPS for PK3/PK4, you are committing to a full-day instructional program which is different from home-care or child-care centers. When children are sick, we expect you to contact the main office and teacher and keep them home to recover. Family travel and vacations are not excused absences. Children who arrive after 8:45am will be marked tardy. For more information: [www.dcps.dc.gov/attendance](http://www.dcps.dc.gov/attendance)