



2017-2018 Fox Chase Elementary Parent/Student Handbook

Please note that the NEW school phone number is: (215) 400-3170

Procedures

Morning Admit

School begins each day at **8:30 A.M.** A parent or caregiver must supervise a kindergarten child prior to the school day in the schoolyard. Unless a student is eating breakfast, he or she should arrive to school no earlier than **8:15 A.M.** and is encouraged to arrive as close as possible to **8:30 A.M.**

When reporting to the schoolyard, students in grades K-5 are required to stand at their assigned room numbers. **All recess activities are prohibited in the morning such as playing tag, football, soccer and all other sports.** Students in grades **K-5** remain in the schoolyard and enter the building at **8:30 A.M.** when their teachers pick them up.

Inclement Weather

If the weather is inclement in the morning, students will be admitted into the building starting at 8:15. They must use the school yard entrance near STAIRWELL A and proceed directly to the auditorium. They will sit quietly in their classroom's designated seats until their teacher picks them up at 8:30. Parents **are not permitted** to accompany their child to the auditorium. We appreciate your adherence with this rule.

Breakfast Program

Research indicates that students who begin school with a healthy breakfast achieve greater academic success. Breakfast is offered at Fox Chase daily free of charge for all students. Students who wish to eat breakfast at school may arrive at **8:15 A.M.** and enter the cafeteria to enjoy breakfast. Parents must accompany kindergarten students to breakfast. At **8:30 A.M.**, all students are then dismissed from the cafeteria and sent to the schoolyard to line up and wait

for their teachers. Students are only permitted in the cafeteria for breakfast from 8:00 A.M. - 8:30 A.M. If students eat breakfast at home, they must wait outside until the bell rings for admission.

Dismissal

The school day ends at 3:09 pm. Kindergarten students will begin dismissing earlier, usually by 3:04 pm, and must be picked up by parents as they are dismissed from the cafeteria doors into the schoolyard. Students in grades 1-5 will be dismissed to the schoolyard by **3:09 P.M.**

Teachers will escort the students to the schoolyard. **All students must exit the schoolyard upon dismissal.** Students who ride buses or attend an after-school daycare program report to the auditorium for pickup. These students are not permitted to report outside.

Students not picked up in the schoolyard by 3:09 will be brought back into the building by a designated school staff member and to the main office. Parents and/or emergency contacts will be called. The adult picking the child up (must be on the approved list) will be required to enter the building and sign out the child. Be sure to bring proper photo identification! **ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO SHOW I.D. WHEN ENTERING THE SCHOOL-the safety of our students is always first and foremost.** If a student is consistently being picked up late, you will receive notification from the principal that will require a meeting with the school counselor to discuss any barriers/concerns and school district protocol will be followed.

Parent Pick-Up/Drop-Off

All parents must be considerate of our neighbors. **Please DO NOT** double park or **BLOCK** the driveways of our neighbors. The police will be contacted for those who do not comply. Also, please do not block the designated school bus areas. If you park in a bus loading/unloading area, this poses a safety risk; please be mindful and considerate of our students and buses. Driving in the circular driveway at the front entrance is prohibited between 3:09 and 3:15 pm. This rule is for the safety of our staff, students, and families. This will be strictly enforced and those who do not obey will receive notification.

Attendance and Lateness Protocols

Fox Chase boasts a high average daily attendance rate. Punctuality and good attendance are two of the basic principles of good work habits and ensure a student's success in school. Chronic absenteeism, poor attendance, and lateness become barriers to learning for students. Parents or caregivers should make every effort to ensure their children are in school and on time everyday.

Absences

Upon returning to school after an absence, each student must provide the teacher with an absence note signed by the parent or caregiver including the **dates and reasons for the absence**. (blank absence note templates can be found in the main office for your convenience). **Failure to provide a note will mean a child's absence is coded as an unexcused absence. *An absence note must be submitted to the teacher within three days of an absence or the absence will be coded unexcused.*** Be advised that an absence note does not excuse a student if a **pattern of absences or lateness exists**. If a student is out of school for 3 or more consecutive days, a doctor's note will be required in order to excuse the absences (notes from parents will not be accepted). Children are not excused for attending trips with parents. **Being absent from school to go on vacation will not be excused.** The parent should notify the school if a child is expected to be absent for an ***extended period of time for medical reasons or some other urgent concern***. Once a child has reached 8 absences total (excused or unexcused, and over one or multiple occurrences), a doctor's note will be required from that point forward to excuse any absence. It is the parent and/or child's responsibility to check with the teacher about make-up work and/or tests and assignments.

If students arrive in school after 10 AM without a note or leave before 1PM without a note they will be marked half a day unexcused absence. The half day unexcused absences will accrue to full days. The trigger for a truancy/DHS referral remains 10 unexcused absences.

Students are awarded for perfect attendance, which is defined as a student who is present in school **everyday** and arrives on time without **ANY** early dismissals or lateness. Poor attendance, **10 unexcused absences**, will result in a referral to truancy court/DHS and suspension of student participation in a range of school activities. A student with **10 consecutive** unexcused absences will no longer be enrolled in Fox Chase.

Late Policy

Punctuality sets the tone for the school day. Students who are constantly late disrupt the instructional program and are apt to quickly fall behind in school. Students arriving to school after **8:30 A.M.** are considered late. **PLEASE BE REMINDED: late students must enter through the cafeteria to obtain a late note from the late attendant---DO NOT ENTER THROUGH THE FRONT DOORS AFTER 8:30! An adult must accompany any student arriving after 8:45 A.M.** Lateness is indicated on the official school record. **Five or more** latenesses will result in the loss of school privileges. *Chronic lateness will be investigated.* Lateness also counts against *perfect attendance*.

Early Dismissal

It is imperative that your child remains in school the entire day in order to maximize the benefits of instruction. Instructional time is valuable and cannot be recouped once it is lost. Children with numerous early dismissals quickly fall behind in school so it is vital that **parents schedule medical appointments after school and/or during school closures**. If your child must be dismissed early, he or she must bring in a written note signed by the parents stating the time and reason for the early dismissal. Parents will then report to the office and sign the child out in the **“Sign-Out Book.”** All adults must show ID to verify they are on the list of adults approved to remove a child for an early dismissal. The child will then be called to the office. For the safety and security of your child, no child will be dismissed without an identified adult (**21 and over**) to accompany him or her.

An early dismissal, unless it is an emergency, is permitted up until **45 minutes** before the end of the school day. Early Dismissals and/or Late Arrivals are monitored very carefully and are a part of the child’s official school record. **Patterns of early dismissal and lateness will be investigated**. Children with significant lateness and early dismissals will be barred from attending school trips. Parents of children with significant absences, lateness or early dismissals will be excluded from serving as chaperones. Children may not be signed out for an early dismissal after a trip unless the child is in kindergarten and classes return from the trip after 2:00 P.M. Siblings of students attending trips may not be removed from class for early dismissals when the trip has concluded.

Emergency School Closing

When school is closed due to extreme weather conditions, an announcement will be made over **KYW RADIO 1060** and television stations early in the morning. The announcement **“ALL PHILADELPHIA SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED”** will be posted on the School District’s website. When it is necessary to close school during the school day, television and radio stations will also make announcements. It will be announced as, **“ALL PHILADELPHIA SCHOOLS WILL CLOSE AT (time).”** In the event of an emergency closing at Fox Chase School, **parents will be notified telephone messenger and School District website**. It is imperative that we have current home information, emergency contact numbers, and work numbers on file. It is important to review with your child the instructions for what to do in the event that you are not at home when he or she arrives home from school. Parents can also download the **KYW radio “app”** so they can receive important alerts on their cellular telephones.

Academics

Fox Chase teachers will provide your child with a rigorous standardized curriculum in a student-centered learning environment. Students’ interests, and learning styles will be

assessed in order to meet the needs of individual learners and motivate students. Our teachers participate in ongoing professional development that will enhance their professional practice.

The core subject areas of Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies will be taught daily, with many of the content areas being woven in through thematic units. The School District is transitioning to the PA Common Core Standards. These standards increase the focus on critical thinking in reading and writing and authentic problem solving and conceptual understanding in math. In science and social studies, students will learn like the experts in these areas.

The school will continue to use the Mandated Core Curriculum in Literacy and Mathematics. To support the curriculum, your child will be using:

Mathematics: Grades K-5: *Pearson Envision 2.0 Math*

Literacy: Grades K-5: *ReadyGen*
 Grades K-3: *Children's Literacy Initiative*
 Grades K-2: *Saxon Phonics*

Homework

Homework is assigned to students **Mondays-Thursdays** and in some instances **Fridays** when students are working on long-term projects. Homework is assigned to **reinforce or strengthen skills, extend classroom learning, or as a creative project requiring the student to use higher-order thinking skills**. Each teacher will maintain a homework log to document homework assignments. Students are expected to complete all homework assignments. Parents or caregivers should sign each assignment to ensure regular completion of homework assignments. Homework does count towards the final grade.

Report Cards

Report cards are issued **four** times a year. Parent conferences will be held during the **first, second, and third report card periods**. During the mid-marking period, many teachers provide either interim or progress reports. Parents are encouraged to keep the lines of communication open with teachers. **Parents may request a conference at any time**. At least **two days** notice should be given.

Report Card Conference Dates

First Cycle	November 20-22, 2017
Second Cycle	February 14-16, 2018
Third Cycle	May 2-4, 2018
Final Report Card	Distributed in June

Special Education/MTSS/Support Programs

MTSS

Students who are at-risk either academically and/or behaviorally will be referred to Tier II of MTSS, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support. Parents will be informed of the process and are invited to be active participants. There is an MTSS database that is designed to help monitor your child's progress toward meeting a specific math, reading, behavior, or attendance goal. If you are concerned with how your child is doing academically, the first point of contact is your child's homeroom teacher.

Special Education

Students who have been identified with Special Needs will receive Specially Designed Instruction in the Least Restrictive Environment as indicated in the Evaluation Report and Notice of Recommended Educational Program and as delivered by the Individualized Education Plan. In some cases, the Least Restrictive Environment will mean services must be provided at another location. The Special Education Liaison (Ms. Himes) and/or your child's assigned Special Education Case Manager is an important point of contact for any questions or concerns regarding your child's IEP, progress, or concerns regarding specific special education programming.

English to Students of Other Languages (ESOL)

Students whose primary language is not English may receive language instruction from an ESOL teacher. Any questions regarding ESOL services can be directed to the ESOL teacher, Ms. Grugan.

Mentally Gifted

Students who have been identified by the School Psychologist as mentally gifted will receive support in the regular education classroom. Students must maintain excellent grades and

complete all assignments to participate in special Gifted Programs or activities. If grades drop the IEP team will review the student's file to determine if placement in the Gifted Program is appropriate.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Designated teachers are sponsors for various clubs. Information about club participation will be made available to your child shortly after the school year begins. Clubs are designed for academic reinforcement, academic enrichment or the arts. Students may be excluded from extracurricular activities if their academic performance is lower than a "D" on their report card/interim report.

Home and School Association

The Fox Chase School is proud of its Home and School Association. All parents are invited to join and participate in all activities of the Fox Chase Home and School Association. These activities are an important way to show children the connection between the home and school. We have a dedicated group of parents who are committed to maintaining a strong school program and enriching the education experience of every child attending our school. We strongly encourage active participation and membership. Show your support with your family membership contribution of \$10. Volunteers are always welcome at the many sponsored events throughout the school year such as: Candy Sales, Book Fairs, Picture Day, Yankee Candle Sales, Play Day, and more! Please contact the HSA via their mailbox in the main office.

Safety and Discipline

It is the responsibility of the school stakeholders to provide a safe and secure environment. Discipline is a key element for the safety of all our children. Discipline keeps students accountable through active engagement. Good habits and appropriate behavior are learned early in a child's development. It is also at this time, when parental involvement is at its highest. It is important for school staff and parents to work together to achieve and maintain a school atmosphere conducive to learning.

Discipline is a way of reaching that goal. Parents, as an important part of the Fox Chase team, can assist by teaching their children appropriate and proper behavior, respect and responsibility. It is a continuous process. What your child learns at home, can and will be carried into the school day. All students are expected to behave in an acceptable and responsible manner while at school, on field trips, riding the bus, in the school yard, lunchroom

and other school related situations. Positive behavior, courtesy and cooperation are essential to learning. Fox Chase School adheres to the *School District of Philadelphia Student Code of Conduct*. Your child will receive a copy of the Code early in **September**. Please review it with your child. The Code will be referred to often should circumstances arise for any disciplinary action involving your child.

SDP Bullying/Harassment Policy

All parents received a letter informing them of the District's new **Bullying Policy**, affirming its zero tolerance of bullying in its schools. Zero tolerance means that instances of misconduct will be investigated and the appropriate action taken, if necessary. Zero tolerance does not mean a child is immediately punished or expelled from school when an incident occurs. **All incidents will be investigated and students found responsible for violating the Code of Conduct will receive disciplinary action.**

Often parents and children possess a limited understanding of bullying and use the term to describe all types of conflicts between students. The correct definition is provided below:

Bullying is defined as the following:

- It is aggressive behavior or intentional actions that result in harm,
- It is carried out repeatedly over time, and
- It occurs within an interpersonal relationship where there is an imbalance of power (e.g., one person is physically larger, stronger, mentally quicker, or socially more powerful).

Bullying, as defined in the policy, refers to direct or indirect action, which may include but is not limited to:

Physical: hitting, kicking, pushing, shoving, getting another person to hurt someone;

Verbal: racial slurs, name-calling, teasing, taunting, verbal sexual harassment, gossiping, spreading rumors; or

Non-Verbal: threatening, obscene gestures, isolation, exclusion, stalking, cyber-bullying (bullying that occurs by use of electronic or communication devices through means of email, instant messaging, text messages, blogs, photo and video sharing, chat rooms, bash boards, or websites). Updated Code of Student Conduct booklets describe the sanctions and supports for students violating the bullying policy.

The following behaviors will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary actions:

- Bullying any member of the school community

- Hitting or threatening a teacher
- Fighting
- Disruptive behavior
- Possession of Weapons and Dangerous Instruments
- Narcotics, Alcohol and Drugs
- Conduct which may harm or threaten an individual
- Damage, destruction or theft of school or private property
- Trespassing
- Offensive Language
- Graffiti

Unlawful Harassment is defined as the following: For purposes of this policy, harassment shall consist of unwelcome verbal, written, graphic or physical conduct relating to an individual's gender, age, race, color, sexual orientation (known or perceived), gender identity expression (known or perceived), national origin, religion, disability, English language proficiency, socioeconomic status and/or political beliefs. Harassment does not have to include intent to harm, be directed at a specific target, or involve repeated incidents. A single incident of harassment may implicate more than one protected class. For example, a student may be targeted because of his race and sexual orientation.

Harassment can create a hostile environment when it:

1. Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects an individual's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity or creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment;
2. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's education; or
3. Otherwise adversely affects an individual's learning opportunities, health, safety, or well-being.

Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment can include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

School/Lunch/Recess Rules

1. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
2. Follow directions from all teachers and staff members
3. Speak respectfully to others at all times.

These venues include: **Schoolyard, Classroom, Hallway, Bathroom, Auditorium, Bus and Lunchroom.**

Safety and Security

Your child's safety in the building during the school day is of the utmost importance. Each classroom has posted Safety procedures in the event of an emergency. We routinely practice drills for building *Evacuation, Lock-Down* and *Shelter In Place*. There is a designated School Safety Team.

The **Lunchroom Rules** are: (parents please review these rules with your child)

1. **Walk to your assigned table**
2. **Sit in your seat/no running or walking around**
3. **Listen to adults/follow directions**
4. **Line up to get your lunch when prompted**
5. **Sit and eat your lunch**
6. **Throw away your trash when finished**
7. **Return to your seat**
8. **Line up to go to recess when prompted**
9. **Horseplay/fighting/aggression is strictly forbidden and will result in a loss of recess privileges as it poses a safety risk**

Recess

All students will have a recess period attached to their lunch period. **No glass bottles** are permitted. Recess is a privilege. Please remind your child that he/she must follow school and lunch/recess rules at all times. The safety of all students is paramount.

Students are expected to use the restrooms during their lunch period. Please remind your child to use their lunch/recess time to use the bathroom facilities.

If a student does not follow lunch/recess rules a lunch detention can be assigned. Lunch detentions take place DURING a student's lunch/recess period (usually the day following the rule infraction) in a separate, designated area in the school and is monitored by a school staff member. Parents will be notified in writing of any lunch detention assignments and will be required to sign a notice acknowledging your child's rule violation. Lunch detentions are used as a last resort and can only be assigned by a lunch aide, Principal, School Counselor, or a designated disciplinarian.

Code of Conduct Violations

Please refer to the School District of Philadelphia Code of Conduct for policies on violations to the code of conduct. At Fox Chase Elementary, we pride ourselves on the safe, nurturing environment we provide to all our staff, students, and families. Should a student chose to violate the code of conduct, we will follow the district's protocol when handling such matters in regards to discipline.

Electronic Devices (cell phones, IPADs, and IPODs)

Students are prohibited from using any type of personal electronic device during school hours. Students may **not** use devices **anywhere** inside the school building or on school grounds. If the devices, or peripherals, such as headphones, are in view of school staff, they **will** be confiscated and may be held until parents can pick them up. Continued non-compliance of this rule can result in the item being held until the end of the school year

Parent Concerns

The staff at Fox Chase value the feedback and suggestions of our families and parents. If you have any concerns, suggestions, or feedback, or you simply wish to request a meeting or conference please feel free to complete a Parent Concern Form that is located in the Main Office. These forms are the best, most efficient way to voice your concerns and to let our staff know that you want to be contacted for any reason. Thank you for your cooperation with this!

School Uniforms

The School District of Philadelphia has adopted a school uniform policy for all students in grades Kindergarten through twelfth. The school board believed that this policy would assist in creating a positive learning environment. As a **September 1, 2001**, this policy is mandatory. Students who do not comply with the policy will receive warning letters, possible conference with the teacher, principal, and the possibility of not participating in activities such as trips, athletics and/or graduation exercises.

The Fox Chase School Uniform:

Tops

- Red Polo (with collar or golf shirt, short or long sleeves)
- Red sweaters (cardigans or pullover for colder weather)
- Red or black hoodies (plain or with Fox Chase logo only)

Bottoms

- Khaki/black Pants
- Khaki/black Capri pants and cargo pants (knee-length)
- Khaki skirts or jumpers (knee-length)

Shoes

- sneakers or dress shoes
- **Open-toed shoes prohibited**

Gym Attire:

- Students can wear items below instead of above uniform:
Sneakers, black shorts, red t-shirts or sweatshirts, black sweatpants, red tops

Farm Trip Attire:

Dress according to weather- old shoes or boots permitted. Students will be learning and working on the farm!

******KINDERGARTEN ONLY******

MAY WEAR GYM UNIFORM ATTIRE DAILY

Uniform Violations - Parents will be called and required to bring in the uniform. After three uniform violations, students will not be permitted to participate in school-related functions/special activities.

2017/2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR

(subject to change)

Date	Activity
August 28, 2017	First Day for Staff
September 4, 2017	Labor Day – <i>Schools and Administrative Offices Closed</i>
September 5, 2017	First Day for Grades 1-12 – <i>Student Attendance</i>

September 5, 2017	First Day for Pre-Kindergarten, Head Start and Bright Futures – <i>Student Attendance</i>
September 5-11, 2017	Early Childhood Experiences Interviews – <i>Kindergarten Parent/Teacher Interviews</i>
September 12, 2017	First Day for Kindergarten – <i>Student Attendance</i>
September 21-22, 2017	Rosh Hashanah – <i>Schools and Administrative Offices Closed</i>
September 29, 2017	2018-2019 School Selection Process Begins
October 9 – 11, 2017	Interim Reports
October 27, 2017	Professional Development Half Day – <i>3 Hour Early Dismissal</i>
November 7, 2017	Election Day – <i>Schools Closed</i>
November 10, 2017	Veterans' Day Observed – <i>Schools and Administrative Offices Closed</i>
November 13, 2017	2018-2019 School Selection Process Ends
November 20 – 22, 2017	Report Card Conferences
November 23 – 24, 2017	Thanksgiving Holiday – <i>Schools and Administrative Offices Closed</i>
December 8, 2017	Professional Development Half Day – <i>3 Hour Early Dismissal</i>

December 25, 2017	Winter Recess – <i>Schools and Administrative Offices Closed</i>
December 26 – 29, 2017	Winter Recess – <i>Schools Closed</i>
January 1, 2018	New Year's Day – <i>Schools Closed and Administrative Offices Closed</i>
January 2, 2018	Staff Only – <i>Professional Development</i>
January 3 – 5, 2018	Interim Reports
January 15, 2018	Dr. Martin Luther King Day – <i>Schools and Administrative Offices Closed</i>
February 14 – 16, 2018	Report Card Conferences
February 19, 2018	Presidents' Day – <i>Schools and Administrative Offices Closed</i>
March 14 – 16, 2018	Interim Reports
March 16, 2018	Professional Development Half Day – <i>3 Hour Early Dismissal</i>
March 29, 2018	Spring Recess – <i>Schools Closed</i>
March 30, 2018	Good Friday – <i>Schools and Administrative Offices Closed</i>
April 2, 2018	Spring Recess – <i>Schools Closed</i>

April 27, 2018	Professional Development Half Day – 3 Hour Early Dismissal
May 2 – 4, 2018	Report Card Conferences
May 15, 2018	Pennsylvania Primary Election Day – Schools Closed
May 9 – 11, 2018	Interim Reports
May 18, 2018	Professional Development Half Day – 3 Hour Early Dismissal
May 28, 2018	Memorial Day – Schools and Administrative Offices Closed
June 8 – 12, 2018	Graduation Window
June 12, 2018	Last Day for Students
June 13, 2018	Last Day for Staff

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

MAIN PHONE NUMBER: (215) 400-3170

FAX: (215) 400-3171

Principal: Rob Caroselli

Secretary: Mindy Hantman

School Nurse: Kathy Mackell, Option #1

School Counselor: Holly Borrelle, Option #2

Special Education Liaison: Bari Himes, Option # 3

Special Education Case Manager K-3: Nicole Robbins, Option # 4

Special Education Case Manager 4-5: Lori Samson, Option # 5

Building Engineer: Option # 6

Note from the Nurse:



If your child has any special medical conditions, please notify Ms. Mackell (School Nurse) and indicate such conditions on the health forms that will be sent home with each student at the beginning of each school year. **No medications of any kind should be sent to school with your child in his/her school bag** (inhalers, nebulizers, aspirin, tylenol, etc). If your child needs to be administered medication during school hours there is a procedure that must be followed. Please contact the school nurse for the proper forms. **It is the parent's responsibility to bring all medications to school for storage and/or refill.** Physical exams are **REQUIRED** for **NEW** students in kindergarten and those students who never attended a Philadelphia Public School. These forms are provided at the time of registration. Please be sure to send in all updated immunizations.

