



Mt. Pleasant Elementary

Parent Handbook

2021-2022

Welcome to the 2021-2022 Year!

Contact Information
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Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is hard to believe that another school year is almost upon us! I can't tell you enough how excited I am about the idea of returning to school, and even more importantly, returning to a sense of normalcy. All teachers and support staff have spent hours preparing materials, creating child-centered classrooms, and reviewing data. The rooms are beginning to look amazing! Secretaries and office staff have registered new students, put together information packets to be sent home with all students, and organized new materials.

This school year is truly going to be something special. Why? Because we can promise you that Mount Pleasant is going to be a place filled with laughter, passion, and learning. We want each and every person that comes into this community to know they are valued and that they hold tremendous worth. We want to teach our students to "Be Brave". We believe in fresh-starts and new beginnings. We believe in growth and potential. And we believe in bringing everyone together to accomplish success.

To the students, I want you to know how much we truly care about you here at Mount Pleasant. While some of you we have not met yet, you are the reason we come to work every day. You matter to each and every one of us. We hope that every day you leave our building knowing how special you are and just how much potential you hold.

To the parents and guardians, you are just as important. Without you, we will not reach our full potential as a school and community. We value you and your opinions. We look to you as a partner in your child's education. We are excited to work with you and to greet you with a smile and open arms each and every day.

As you can tell - we are eager to start. **The first day of school for students in grades 1-5 will be Tuesday, August 31st.** We will also be in session on Wednesday and Thursday that first week before taking a four day weekend for Labor Day. **Please note our start and end times – 8:15-2:40.** Breakfast will be available for all students in their classrooms. No student will be permitted into the building prior to 8:00. The first bell will sound at 8:00. Students in grades 1-5 can find their class placement on the reverse side of this letter. Incoming **Kindergarten** students please refer to the reverse side for information regarding Kindergarten Screening and the staggered start to the school year.

If you have any questions or concerns, or you'd like to contact me to discuss your child's upcoming school year, I would be happy to hear from you. I am at school most days from 8:30 – 2:00 and can be reached directly at **966-2403** or **boardmanr@nashua.edu**. We look forward to working with you and your child as we begin another exciting school year.

Kind Regards,

Richard Boardman
Principal

Mount Pleasant School Information

Daily Schedule:

- 7:50** Playground supervision begins. Students should not arrive on the playground before this time
- 8:00** Bell rings to enter school. All children should be at school by this time.
- 8:15** Instructional time begins. Any students arriving after this time will be considered tardy and will need to report to the office for a tardy pass.
- 10:40** Morning Preschool dismissal
- 12:10** Afternoon Preschool dismissal
- 2:35** Kindergarten dismissal
- 2:40** Grades 1-5 dismissal

We encourage you to have your children at school by 8:00 every day.

Arrival

Students should not arrive at school before 7:50 AM, when supervision begins on the playground. Students are asked to walk around the school to the playground where they can wait for the 8:00 bell to ring. At this time teachers will arrive on the playground to escort their students into the building. In the case of inclement weather students may wait in the gymnasium starting at 7:50 AM. For the safety of the Mt. Pleasant students, please do not cut through the building to get to the school yard. If your child arrives after 8:00, he/she should enter the building through the front door and go directly to their classroom on their own. If your child arrives after 8:15, he/she should report to the school office for a tardy slip.

Dismissal

Unless a student takes a bus after school, **all grades, K - 5** students will be dismissed on the playground in the back of the school at 2:40. Teachers will escort their students to the playground to a designated area where parents may greet them.

Parents can greet their child in the same spot they dropped them off on the back playground.

If your child has a change in dismissal plans, please send a note to the school office to alert us of the change.

Parking

Parking is limited at Mt. Pleasant School. Please be aware of and be respectful of the No Parking signs posted around the neighborhood. Please pay special attention to the signs in front of the school. This space is reserved for our school buses. There is also no parking in the drop off lane at the back of the school on Abbott Street. There are parking spaces available around the school on the following streets:

Manchester Street, French Street, and Mt. Pleasant Street.



Breakfast

Mt. Pleasant School offers a breakfast program in addition to a hot lunch program. Breakfast is available and served daily to all students in their classrooms after their classes enter the building. Breakfast is FREE for all students.



Lunch

Your child may bring a cold lunch or participate in the hot lunch program provided by the school. As with breakfast, there is no cost for any student for the lunch or milk program. Menus for the week are in local newspapers on Thursday nights and are sent home at the beginning of each month. Hot lunch is available on the first day of school.

Early Release Days

During the 2021-2022 school year, teachers will be engaged in professional development activities. To facilitate these activities, students will be released early on the following school days:

October 20, December 8, January 12, March 16, April 13, May 18

Dismissal time is 12:40 for ALL students. Please follow the same procedure as regular school days.

Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency, Mount Pleasant School is able to respond in a way that would protect students and staff. Mt. Pleasant has an emergency team that works diligently on planning, preparing and practicing emergency procedures. The city of Nashua has many resources available to assist in this work as well.

All emergencies require specific actions to be taken. These actions come down to a set of basic drills. Mt. Pleasant practices these drills periodically throughout the school year in addition to regular fire drills.

Emergency Release

In case of emergency release, announcements will be aired on WMUR. Parents may call the district hotline at 966-1000. Be sure to make emergency arrangements for your children.

Delayed openings and Snow Days

Two-hour delays and school cancellations due to weather conditions are announced on WMUR. You may also receive a Parent Link phone call from the district on such days. Mt. Pleasant's school day will begin at 10:15 if a two hour delay is in effect.

Afterschool Program- 21st Century

The 21st Century initiative is the only federal funding dedicated exclusively to afterschool programs. The aim of this program is to provide affordable, safe, and secure academic after-school programming that offers homework club, tutoring, arts, science, recreation and many other opportunities.



Curriculum and Instruction

Language Arts

Mt. Pleasant School follows the guidelines of the district. The curriculum focuses on reading, speaking and writing. Student progress is monitored several times a year through assessments done by the teachers. Parents are welcome to review and discuss the curriculum and /or their child's progress with the teacher at any time during the school year.

Math

Mt. Pleasant School follows the guidelines of the district. The curriculum is divided into the areas of numbers and operations, geometry and measurement, functions and algebra, data, probability and statistics, and problem solving. There is also a strong emphasis on learning and understanding basic math facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Parents are welcome to review and discuss the curriculum and/or their child's progress with the teacher at any time during the school year.

Homework

Learning is important and should continue after school hours. The amount of homework given will vary according to the grade level. Homework assignments support classroom lessons and are used to reinforce school experiences. Parents are encouraged to check their child's homework, sign off on the homework assignment every day and make sure it is completed and ready to be returned to school in the time required. Homework will be given Monday through Thursday and the expectations are as follows:

Kindergarten: Read one book daily and discuss. One day a week children will be assigned one five minute task to complete.

Grade One: 10 minutes of reading daily, 10 minutes of assigned work. The total time spent on homework is not to exceed twenty-five minutes.

Grade Two: 10 minutes of reading daily, 15 minutes of assigned work. The total time spent on homework is not to exceed thirty minutes.

Grade Three: 15 minutes of reading daily, 20 minutes of assigned work. Total time spent on homework is not exceed thirty-five minutes.

Grade Four: 15 minutes of reading daily, 20 minutes of assigned work. Total time spent on homework is

not to exceed forty-five minutes.

Grade Five: *20 minutes of reading daily, 25 minutes of assigned work. Total time spent on homework is not to exceed sixty minutes.*

Support Services

Title One

The Title One program is a federally funded program that provides support for language arts and math instruction. Mt. Pleasant School's Title One Program is designed to enhance learning for students in grades K-5.

The Title One instructors work to assure that each child has the individual support he or she needs to grow as a student in reading, writing and math. The instruction will not replace classroom instruction but will supplement it.

Children may receive support for the entire school year or just for periods of time when they are experiencing difficulty.

English Language Learners

Mt. Pleasant School is fortunate to have a diverse group of students as part of our family. The Mt. Pleasant ELL (English Language Learners) program promotes the academic achievement and English language proficiency of the ELL students at our school. We support our ELL students in grades K-5 in many ways. We provide English instruction and oral language development as well as instruction in reading and writing. The ELL teachers work with the classroom teachers in order to provide a program that supplements and supports the work that is taking place in the classroom. Our ELL program consists of working within the regular classroom, small group instruction, and one-to-one support when needed.

Special Education

Mt. Pleasant School is committed to ensuring that children with disabilities are able to be active, good citizens, life-long learners, and productive workers. Parents, children, and teachers work together to reach this goal.

At the core of this work is the Individual Education Plan (IEP) which describes a child's strengths and needs, as well as present levels of performance. The IEP also sets forth goals and objectives that are linked to state and school standards. The IEP also sets forth a program of services the child will receive during the school

year. The IEP is developed by a team which includes parents, teachers, administration and other professionals and is reviewed annually.

Our Special Education program provides classroom and small group instruction with both para- professionals and certified, highly qualified Special Education teachers.

Mount Pleasant School Policies

Absences-Attendance

All students are expected to be in school, on time, every day that school is in session. If your child is going to be absent, please notify the office at 966-2414.

A note from the parent or guardian is required for the following reasons:

1. A child returning from an absence, or when tardy.
2. A child must leave school before the usual dismissal time.
3. A child is to be picked up by someone other than a parent or guardian.
4. A child is to go home in a different manner than usual.

Please be sure your child is on the playground ready to enter the building with their teacher and classmates at **8:00**. Classes enter the building at 8:00 and the bell to officially start learning is 8:15.

Many things happen in your child's classroom between 8:00 and 8:15 so teachers are ready to begin class promptly at 8:15. **It is very important that your child arrives on time.** Attendance and tardiness will be monitored during the year.

Books

Every child has the responsibility of taking reasonable care of the books issued to them during the school year. We realize and expect that some books will show signs of wear and handling, especially those that go back and forth from school. In June, all books will be inspected by the classroom teachers. If books have not been given reasonable care, your child will be assessed a fee to help pay for a new book.

Dress Policy

All students are expected to be neat, clean and modestly dressed in clothing that is appropriate for school and the season. Dress or appearance which may be disruptive to an orderly classroom learning process will not be allowed. All students must wear appropriate footwear which is not dangerous or harmful. Shoes must have a back strap; flip flops are not allowed. Students should wear flat shoes, no heels. All students are encouraged to wear sneakers every day. Hats and headwear are not allowed to be worn in the school building. This includes bandanas, scarves, sweatbands and hoods. Spaghetti straps, off-the-shoulder shirts, midriff baring shirts are not appropriate attire for school. Pajamas should only be worn on "Pajama Spirit Days." Make-up should not be worn in elementary school.

Cell Phones

Use of or display of cell phones by students is not allowed during the academic day. Cell phones will be confiscated if students are using a cell phone at school and a parent will be required to come to school to pick it up.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices such as IPODS, handheld games and radios are not allowed in school. These devices will be taken away and parents will have to make arrangements to pick them up.

Visitors

ALL visitors must be buzzed in at the front door and report to the office to sign in and obtain a visitors badge from the office staff before going anywhere in the building. The visitors badge must be worn in plain sight at all times while visiting the building. Parents are not allowed to go directly to a classroom without reporting to the main office.

Behavior

At Mt. Pleasant School, we set high expectations for excellent behavior. We strive to create an atmosphere of respect and caring for one another. The students are made aware of these expectations and are expected to follow the established rules set for them. We are very proud of the efforts put forth at our school fostering an atmosphere where students are able to develop their potential academically, socially, and emotionally.

Cafeteria Behavior

In order to enjoy the privilege of eating breakfast or lunch at school, students must conform to cafeteria rules regarding their behavior. Students are expected to follow the rules set by the lunch monitors.

Playground Behavior

The principal and staff of Mt. Pleasant School set rules for the playground. These rules are set to insure the safety of all students on the playground.

The Mt. Pleasant School playground rules are as follows:

1. Children should follow all safety rules to avoid accidents.
2. When the monitors blow the whistle at the end of recess, all children should stop playing immediately and walk to line.
3. Only soft balls, jump ropes and other toys provided by the school, or approved by the school, are allowed on the playground.
4. Due to limited space on our playground playing football is not allowed.
5. The throwing of rocks, snowballs, ice, and other dangerous items is prohibited and will result in serious consequences.
6. Students are not allowed to leave school property.
7. Students are not allowed to enter the building during recess without the permission of a lunch monitor.
8. Vandalism will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in a strong manner.
9. Students are to keep their hands and feet off of other children.
This means no wrestling, karate, tackling games, etc.

Health



Emergency Information

During the first few days of school, your child will bring home an Emergency Information form for you to complete and return to school. Please return this form promptly. It is very important for the school to have current emergency information on file for each student. **Please be sure to provide us with the name and current phone number of a person we can contact in the case of an emergency or illness. If your phone number should change, please notify the office.**

Medication

Medication will be dispersed at school, by the school nurse, according to the following regulations:

1. The school must have a written order form from the doctor giving the name of the medication, the dosage/ and the time of day the medication is to be taken.
2. We must have written permission from the parent or guardian giving school personnel permission to issue the medication as prescribed by the physician.
3. Medication must be in a pharmacy bottle and properly labeled. Medication must not be brought to school in envelopes, plastic bags or other such containers.



Parent Involvement

Mt. Pleasant School encourages parents to get involved in their child's education. Research shows that active parent involvement in their child's education has a direct positive effect on their child's success in school. There are many ways you can get involved at Mt. Pleasant School.

PTO - Parent Teacher Organization

The Mt. Pleasant School PTO has been a school tradition for many years. The PTO was formed to enhance educational opportunities for Mt. Pleasant students. The group is guided by PTO officers and any interested parents who would like to join. The group meets the second Tuesday of every month in the school library. They sponsor a variety of activities throughout the year under the leadership of volunteer subcommittees. Your participation in the PTO is needed and welcomed.

Volunteer

Parent volunteers are always welcome at Mt. Pleasant School. There are many opportunities for parents to help out. You can volunteer in the library, photocopying for teachers, helping out at school wide events, and many other jobs. A volunteer sheet is sent home at the beginning of each school year which you can fill out and return to school with your child. You can also contact your child's teacher to see how you can help out in the classroom. Please do not hesitate to come in and inquire about volunteer jobs. There is plenty for parents to do.

Your active participation in the education of your child is one of the most valuable things you can give your child. Please get involved, take part in their homework, show or interest in the work they bring home, attend school functions, and consider volunteering or joining the PTO. By taking part in school activities and showing a genuine interest in what your child is learning gives the message that you believe education is important.

eNews

eNews is a great way to keep up to date with news from the Superintendent of Schools. Distribution includes all members of the Nashua community: staff, parents, residents, Board of Education, Board of Alderman, etc. You can subscribe to eNews by going to the link below on your computer. It is a great way to stay updated with what is going on in our school district.

<http://www.nashua.edu/events/EnewsReq.asp?type=super>

Mt. Pleasant staff looks forward to working closely with students and families to ensure we provide the best educational experience possible for your child. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please contact our school office at 966-2400.

