

Whately Elementary School



Whately Elementary School strives to prepare our students in a supportive school and community to become confident, responsible, life-long learners.

I am moving into the area. Can I schedule a tour of the building?

Welcome to our community! We are very proud of our school and would love the opportunity to give you a tour. Please call Mary in our office to arrange a convenient time.

How do I register my child?

Please visit our school office and bring a copy of your child's birth certificate, immunization records and proof of residency. You may use a WMECO bill with your name and address (original, not a copy), lease agreement or driver's license with a Whately address as residency proof. Please see new immunization requirements.

School Choice

Whately Elementary School participates in School Choice and we hope that you will consider us for your child's education. We currently have 49 School Choice students, and believe that we have a great deal to offer your child.

We are small enough to get to know every student as our School currently has only 128 students in pre-kindergarten thru 6th grade. We aim to keep classes between 18 and 20 students so we limit the size of each incoming class.

Spanish is taught in classes Kindergarten through 6th grade.

We offer after school enrichment programs as well as traditional before and after school programs.

We accept school choice applications in the spring of each year. If applications exceed the number of available student slots in the desired grade levels, a random lottery will held be in May.

What are the hours of the school day?

We start our day promptly at 8:55 and finish at 3:00 p.m. Within the first 5 minutes of school, the attendance, lunch order and after school arrangements are recorded. We encourage students to arrive by 8:45 as tardiness disrupts the class and interferes with classroom learning.



Do I need to call if my child is going to be late?

Please call and advise if your child is going to be more than a few minutes late. We will inquire if your child wants school lunch so we may advise the cafeteria of the correct number of meals to prepare. All students late to school must stop in the office so we may correct our records to reflect that they are tardy and not absent. We also need to verify lunch choice and method of pick-up after school. Your child must be in school by 11:59 a.m. to be counted as attending for the day. A student must be present for at least $\frac{1}{2}$ the school day to not be counted as absent.

How will I know if school is cancelled or delayed?



We will announce cancellations and delays no later than 6:30 a.m. on local radio and television stations. Please note that cancellations or delays indicated for either Union 38 or Frontier Regional would apply to our school. (You will NOT see Whately Elementary School on the closure/delay list.) If school is delayed 1 or 2 hours, then the bus transportation will be delayed accordingly. Preschool will **NOT** attend school when delays occur. We have also instituted an automatic call system that will send a message to your home regarding cancellations or delays. Be sure to notify us if your telephone number changes.

Transportation changes

Please write us a note notifying us of any changes in the usual method of child pick-up. We must be provided with a note if someone else is picking up your child or if he/she is going home with a friend. If your child is going to a different location on the bus route, please provide the complete address and we will notify the bus driver. This procedure is to be used in both long term (such as riding to a grandparent's house each day) and short term situations (such as going to a friend's house one afternoon). A daily note or weekly note may be used. Please be sure to DATE all notes to avoid any confusion.

Lunch & Recess Time

K – 3rd Recess 11:20 - 11:50
Lunch 11:50 - 12:10

4th – 6th Recess 12:10 - 12:40
Lunch 12:40 - 1:00

Lunch Cost

\$2.75 for students w/milk
\$4.00 for adults w/milk
\$.50 for extra milk

We offer several choices for school lunch.

- ❖ Salad Bar
- ❖ Sandwiches on wheat bread (tuna, grilled cheese or Sunbutter & jelly or fluff)
- ❖ Daily specials



Please Note: Paperwork for Free or Reduced Lunch is available from the office.

Please complete the paperwork as soon as possible as you will be liable for full price of lunches until we receive the completed paperwork (assuming qualification).

Parents are asked to provide nutritious food when providing a snack or bag lunch. Please note that we are a NUT SAFE school, and there maybe restrictions on nut products in certain classroom/areas. We appreciate your assistance in keeping our students safe. Children are not allowed to have candy, gum, soda or glass containers in school.

LUNCH PAYMENT:

Cash payment is always welcome.

However, for your ease as well as our own, please feel free to write a check payable to Whately Elementary School for a weekly, monthly or lump sum. We keep a running total of your credit balance and advise you when your balance is low. This can help on the busy Monday mornings when you are attempting to locate the correct funds.

Why do I get the voice mail when I am trying to call the School?

Whately Elementary School has two in-coming phone lines. When both of these lines are being used, the voice mail automatically picks up the next call. Voice mail messages are checked frequently so please leave a message.

When are specials?

Gym – Monday & Friday (students must wear sneakers)

Music – Wednesdays

Art – Thursdays

IF your child chooses to play an instrument, 4, 5 & 6th grades have lessons on Tuesdays.



Is there a before/after school program?

Paperwork must be completed before attending program.

Program opens in the mornings from 7:00 a.m. to 8:40 a.m.

After School is open from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Extended care offered after Enrichment Programs from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Please see: http://www.des.deerfield.ma.us/Out Of School/index_out_of_school.htm



Enrichment Programs

We offer after school enrichment programs after school three times a year. These programs vary from year to year, but have consisted of self defense, sewing, scrap-booking, piano lessons, jump roping, hula hooping and group string instruments lessons.

Who do I call if my child is sick?

Call Nurse Juli at 665-5560. Please leave a message if no one picks up the call.

When should I keep my child home?

Fever of 100 degrees or more – A student with a fever will need to stay home the day the fever begins. A student may return to school after the fever has been gone for 24 hours.

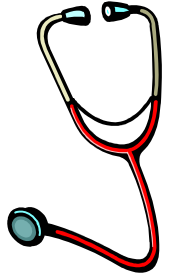
Vomiting and Diarrhea – A student with either vomiting and/or diarrhea will need to stay home for 24 hours after the last episode. Encourage fluid.

Sore Throat – Mild sore throats can be common prior to simple cold. A very sore throat could be a sign of strep throat. At school, we suspect strep if there have been cases in the class, the child's sore throat lasts more than a day and is accompanied by headache, stomachache, fever, swollen or tender throat will likely be prescribed antibiotics. This student may return to school 24 hours after starting the medication.

Pinkeye or Conjunctivitis – Any student with sticky eyelashes with visible drainage or pink or red eye must be treated with a prescribed antibiotic eye medicine. The student may return to school 24 hours after starting the antibiotic medication.

Rashes, sores or severe itching – Please contact your health care provider for diagnosis of a new undiagnosed rash, red sores or severe itching. Your doctor will provide school attendance guidelines.

Runny nose, congestion and cough – Often a day of rest will help resolve a bad cold and may help limit the spread of nuisance colds and coughs at school.



Junior Olympics

Students in Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6th grades participate in track and field events modeled after the Olympic Games. This is a district wide event that brings students together from Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland and Whately for an athletic competition. Students are randomly matched for team events. Parents are encouraged to attend the event as a volunteer or all student cheerleaders.

Nature's Classroom

The 5th grade class attends Nature's Classroom in Colebrook, CT each fall. This is a one week program that uses the outdoors for a wonderful learning experience. They expand their knowledge of the environment, animals, Native Americans and the way people live. The camp is directed by professional staff counselors, students stay in cabins and are chaperoned by school personnel. Fourth Grade students will be provided with information concerning the program in the spring.

When can I visit my child's classroom?

We ask that you come during your designated volunteer time set with the classroom teacher or after school.

Please do not drop in during arrival or during the day, as these are very busy times when the children and teachers need each other's undivided attention. If you are delivering something for your child, please leave it at the office with Mrs. Lesenski. Thank you for your understanding!

How often will I receive progress reports?

Progress reports are issued bi-annually, in late January and on the last day of school.

When are Parent/Teacher conferences?

Conferences are held in the fall and spring. You can also schedule a conference at any time with your child's teacher.



PTO

We have an amazing group of people who are doing a terrific job of fundraising for this school! Each year there are many events and projects to look after and that requires a lot of volunteer hours, a lot of cooperation, and a lot of creative thinking. This is a talented and dedicated group that has had great success this year and we are so grateful for them. If you have not been involved with the PTO, I would urge you to consider lending some of your time to this group. There is always room for more help and they are FUN and POSITIVE to work with!

Buses

In the fall of 2011, we started a pilot program to allow School Choice children to ride the bus to and from existing residential stops. Parents must make arrangements to assure that your child is supervised while waiting for the bus in the morning or after he/she is dropped off in the afternoon. A bus application would need to be completed and accepted in order to participate in this program. Continuation of the program will be determined before the end of the school year in June of 2012.

What are the bus routes?

Route W-1

- Start at approximately 8:05 a.m. on North Street.
- South on North Street to Haydenville Road at 8:10.
- West onto Haydenville Road to Strippe Road.
- Strippe Road to Webber Road 8:20.
- Webber Road to West Whately Chapel (turn around) back down Webber road to Strippe road to Haydeonville Road to Westbook Road, to Chestnut Plain Road at 8:25.
- North on Chestnut Plain Road and take left on Christian Rd.
- Proceed on Christian Lane, turn left onto Long Plain Road to Whately Elementary, arriving at 8:40.
 - NOTE: Students living on Christian Lane between Routes 5 & 10 and Long Plain Road will ride the W-1 bus. Any students south of the Haydenville Road/Strippe Road intersection will walk to the Strippe Road bus stop.



Route W-2

- Start at approximately 8:00 a.m. near the Whately Diner.
- Proceed South on Routes 5 & 10 to Swamp Road at 8:05 a.m.
- Left on to North Street.

- Left on to Christian Lane, Right onto Route 5 to Depot Road in Hatfield, left on to Long Plain Road.
- North on Long Plain Road then right onto Straits Road to River Road at 8:25a.m.
- South on River Road to Hatfield town line at 8:30.
- Turn around and proceed north on River Road to Route 116 at 8:35 a.m.
- Take left on to Route 116.
- Take left on to Pine Street at 8:40 to Long Plain Road to Whately Elementary School at 8:45 a.m.
 - NOTE: Any student living on Egypt Road will walk out to Long Plain Road.