

# Montessori School 31 Parent Handbook 2019-2020



Dr. Sharon Banks-Williams, Principal





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## Montessori School 31 Parent Handbook

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A Message from Our Administrator

*Dear Parents,*

*This Parent Handbook was developed to provide you with some important information regarding our policies, school procedures, and general information.*

*Parental involvement is critical to your child's success in school. We invite you to become involved in our school programs and activities.*

*Good communication is a vital component of our school. Please read this handbook and feel free to discuss its contents with your child's teacher or the administration. We welcome any and all suggestions.*

*Educationally yours,*

*Dr. Sharon Banks-Williams  
Principal*



## Communicating with the School

### **Address:**

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## **Standards and NY State Curriculum**

### **Next Generation Standards:**

New York State is now following the Next Generation Standards. These are very similar to the Common Core standards, with just a few minor differences. The standards can be read in full at the following websites:

<https://www.engageny.org/next-generation-learning-standards>

<http://www.nysed.gov/next-generation-learning-standards>

### **English and Language Arts Program (ELA):**

Pre-Primary and Primary classes use the HMH *Into Reading* Program as the base of reading and language arts instruction. The *Into Reading* program encompasses phonics, spelling, comprehension and writing skills instruction. All of these areas are supported by Montessori materials and lessons. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt describe their program as being, "...differentiated by design to offer a balanced approach to literacy instruction, support teachers in developing a culture of learning and growth, and help all learners believe in the power of "I can." You can learn more about the *Into Reading* program at <https://www.hmhco.com/programs/into-reading>.

In addition to *Into Reading*, the Intermediate teachers use Novel Studies when teaching English Language Arts to the fourth, fifth and sixth grade students. Novel studies are chosen on or above grade level. They allow for whole class instruction, in addition to small groups. Novel Studies are used to aid in comprehension, improving vocabulary, create in-class activities and whole group discussions about the text. Each Novel Study also helps students learn about character descriptions, and chapter-by-chapter activities are designed to keep students involved as they read. You will be notified of each novel by your child's teacher.

### **Math Modules:**

In order to assist educators with the implementation of the Next Generation Standards, the New York State Education Department provides curricular modules in P-12 English Language Arts and Mathematics that schools and districts can adopt or adapt for local purposes. Curriculum modules in mathematics are marked by in-depth focus on fewer topics. They integrate the NG Standards, rigorous classroom reasoning, extended classroom time devoted to practice and reflection through extensive problem sets, and high expectations for mastery. The time required to complete a curriculum module will depend on the scope and difficulty of the mathematical content that is the focus of the module (first priority cluster area for a given grade level).

Modules for Math are followed based on the following pacing guide:

Grade Pre-K through 5

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/pre-kindergarten-grade-5-mathematics-curriculum-map-and-guiding-documents>

Grade 6 +

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/grades-6-8-mathematics-curriculum-map>

## **Testing**

### **Testing Requirements from New York State:**

Third through Sixth Grade Testing from NY State

- New York State English/Language Arts
- New York State Math
- New York State Science – Grade 4 only

### **Testing Requirements from Yonkers Public Schools:**

- MAPS – Grades K-6
- Brigance – Grades Pre-K – Kindergarten
- NYSESLAT – ELL students only

### **Testing Schedule:**

- New York State English Language Arts for grades 3-6: Tuesday, March 24 – Tuesday March 31
- New York State Mathematics for grades 3-6: Monday, April 20 – Monday, April 27
- NYSESLAT Testing Speaking Component for ELL Students: Monday, April 13 – Friday, May 15
- NYSESLAT Testing Listening, Reading, Writing Component for ELL Students: Monday, May 4 – Friday, May 15 (From <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/schedules/2020/elementarytestingschedule-20.pdf>)
- Fall MAPS cycle for grades K-6: September/October
- Winter MAPS cycle for grades K-6: January/February
- Spring MAPS cycle for grades K-6: May/June
- Brigance Testing for Pre-K and Kindergarten: Prior to November 1

### **Montessori School 31 Mission, Vision and Values**

**Mission Statement:** The Montessori School 31 staff is dedicated to the belief that all children have the ability to achieve mastery of basic skills. Students will progress intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically regardless of their previous experience.

As a collaborative team, we are committed to:

- Training and encouraging students to dig deeper to master skills.
- Encouraging individualized freedom and self-directed learning in a positive environment where all children will be held to realize their fullest potential.
- Fostering an appreciation of the student’s contribution to society and encourage students to aspire to excellence in reaching their personal goals in order to meet lifelong skills.
- Developing and preparing college bound students.

### **Vision Statement:**

Montessori School 31 is a school of many cultures united within the Montessori community. We are dedicated to reaching every child's needs academically and socially as we seek to educate the human potential with grace and dignity. Our environment is beautifully presented with structured choice which encourages independence and self-reliance. We provide a safe, supportive and healthy community for all our Montessori students and their caregivers. We adhere to the 5 Pillars of a Montessori Education – LEARNING, HARD WORK, PEACE, RESPECT AND COMMUNITY.

### **Social / Emotional Learning**

“Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.” (Source: CASEL.org <https://casel.org/what-is-sel/>)

Montessori School 31 promotes social/emotional growth through traditional Montessori community building activities as well as the Yonkers Public Schools Restorative Practices Program.



### Restorative Practices:

Social and Emotional learning is supported school-wide through the Restorative Practices Program.

“Restorative Practices are a range of practices aimed at building a sense of community within and around schools, repairing the harm done when someone acts inappropriately, holding all parties responsible for their actions, improving the emotional literacy of staff, students and their families, intervening in order to prevent (potentially) damaging situations developing any further.”

(Source: inSchool Solutions [http://inschoolsolutions.com/support/restorative\\_practices.htm](http://inschoolsolutions.com/support/restorative_practices.htm))

Restorative Practices include the use of the five questions to respond to challenging behavior:

- What happened?
- What were you thinking of at the time?
- Who have you thought about since?
- Who has been affected by what you have done? In what way?
- What do you need to put things right?

As well as the four questions to help those harmed by others' actions:

- What did you think when you realized what had happened?
- What impact has this incident had on you and others?
- What has been the hardest thing for you?
- What do you think needs to happen to make things right?

(Source: The International Institute for Restorative Practices)

### Department of Pupil Support Services:

Our Pupil Support Team is led by the School Psychologist, Dr. Saribel Balister and the School Social Worker, Mrs. Linda Hartwell. The School Psychologist and School Social Worker can help students, parents, teachers and members of the learning community understand and resolve their concerns.

**School Psychologist, Dr. Saribel Ballister:** School Psychologists help students succeed academically, socially and emotionally. They collaborate with students, teachers and parents to create safe, healthy and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections between home and school. School Psychologists work to find the best solution for each student and situation. They use different strategies to address student needs, and to improve school and district-wide support systems. School Psychologists work with students individually and in groups. They also help to develop programs that improve teaching and learning strategies. They assist with special talents and/or needs.

**School Social Worker, Linda Hollingsworth-Hartwell, LMSW, LMHC and MSed.:** School Social Workers bring a unique knowledge, professional values and a wide range of culturally sensitive practice skills to the school community and the Pupil Support Team. They strive to help students and their families benefit from the educational experience. School Social Workers have a responsibility to assist all students to achieve academic excellence, stay healthy and become productive citizens. School Social Workers' primary goal is to assist individuals in need. They may work one-on-one or in groups with the school age children. They also work with special needs students. School Social Workers provide consultation, direct counseling, advocacy, and make referrals. They use a variety of behavioral and clinical therapies. They also actively participate in the implementation of prevention and intervention strategies, social skills building and life skills development.

**Please remember this advice for home.** “Quit yelling at your kids before they go to bed and expect them to sleep well. Quit yelling at your kids in the morning right after they wake up, before school and expect them to have a good day. You set the tone for your children. You set the tone for YOUR voice that they will always remember in their heads. You become their inner voice. Don't be their inner critic. Let's raise kids who don't need therapy to heal from their childhoods. Speak life. Speak love. Speak bravery and kindness and hope. Speak wisdom and truth. But most of all, LISTEN to your children. Be their safety net. Be their home.”

## Montessori Philosophy

### **What is Montessori Education?**

Montessori is a method of education created and designed by its founder, Dr. Maria Montessori. Dr. Montessori looked at education from a scientific level. She believed that education should prepare a person for all aspects of life. She designed materials and techniques that would promote a natural growth of learning in students. Working with these materials and techniques forms a pattern that children carry over naturally to reading, writing, and mathematics. Each skill is developed to interlock with another. The 5 Pillars of a Montessori Education are LEARNING, HARD WORK, PEACE, RESPECT AND COMMUNITY.

### **From The American Montessori Society (<https://amshq.org>):**

The Montessori Method of education, developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, is a child-centered educational approach based on scientific observations of children from birth to adulthood. Dr. Montessori's Method has been time tested, with over 100 years of success in diverse cultures throughout the world.

It is a view of the child as one who is naturally eager for knowledge and capable of initiating learning in a supportive, thoughtfully prepared learning environment. It is an approach that values the human spirit and the development of the whole child—physical, social, emotional, cognitive.

Montessori education offers our children opportunities to develop their potential as they step out into the world as engaged, competent, responsible, and respectful citizens with an understanding and appreciation that learning is for life.

- **Each child is valued as a unique individual.** Montessori education recognizes that children learn in different ways and accommodates all learning styles. Students are also free to learn at their own pace, each advancing through the curriculum as he is ready, guided by the teacher and an individualized learning plan.
- **Beginning at an early age, Montessori students develop order, coordination, concentration, and independence.** Classroom design, materials, and daily routines support the individual's emerging "self-regulation" (ability to educate one's self, and to think about what one is learning), toddlers through adolescents.
- **Students are part of a close, caring community.** The multi-age classroom—typically spanning 3 years—re-creates a family structure. Older students enjoy stature as mentors and role models; younger children feel supported and gain confidence about the challenges ahead. Teachers model respect, loving kindness, and a belief in peaceful conflict resolution.
- **Montessori students enjoy freedom within limits.** Working within parameters set by their teachers, students are active participants in deciding what their focus of learning will be. Montessorians understand that internal satisfaction drives the child's curiosity and interest and results in joyous learning that is sustainable over a lifetime.
- **Students are supported in becoming active seekers of knowledge.** Teachers provide environments where students have the freedom and the tools to pursue answers to their own questions.
- **Self-correction and self-assessment are an integral part of the Montessori classroom approach.** As they mature, students learn to look critically at their work, and become adept at recognizing, correcting, and learning from their errors.

Given the freedom and support to question, to probe deeply, and to make connections, Montessori students become confident, enthusiastic, self-directed learners. They are able to think critically, work collaboratively, and act boldly—a skill set for the 21st century.

## Academic Programs

**Pre-Primary:** The Pre-Primary program includes the grades Pre-K and Kindergarten. Students enter their multi-grade classroom in Pre-K and remain with their teacher through the end of Kindergarten. Montessori materials are used to teach concepts such as geography, arithmetic, phonics, reading and writing, but are not limited to these. The beautiful materials make the learning seem like a game as children journey through their learning. Children focus on practical life, creating community, and becoming independent learners as teachers follow the Montessori philosophy of following the child through their learning journey.

**Primary:** The Primary program includes the grades 1, 2, and 3. Students enter their multi-grade classroom in first grade and remain with their teacher through the end of third grade. Montessori materials are used to teach concepts such as geography, place value, multi digit arithmetic, phonics, and grammar, but are not limited to these. The beautiful materials make the learning seem like a game as children journey through their learning. Small groups of students meet with the teacher for lessons while other students complete their self-directed learning as they practice concepts using the Montessori materials from the various center areas. Children learn time management and independence as they broaden their academic horizons.

**Intermediate:** The Intermediate program includes the grades 4, 5, and 6. Students enter their multi-grade classroom in fourth grade and remain with their teacher through the end of sixth grade. Montessori materials are used to teach concepts such as cultural studies, fractions and decimals, multi digit arithmetic, writing, and science, but are not limited to these. The beautiful materials inspire children to expand their learning journey independently. Small groups of students meet with the teacher for lessons while other students complete their self-directed learning as they practice concepts using the Montessori materials from the various center areas. Children learn time management and independence as they prepare to move up to middle school.

**Special Stars:** The Special Education program is a beautiful and nurturing place. Students are placed by need into our school. Though it is not an official Montessori program, the Special Education classes are truly a part of our school. Our Special Education students pair with primary grade students and the Student Technology Squad for support in reading and computer usage. Our special students are celebrated, and their development is fostered by dedicated teachers and staff.

**Special Areas:** Each class will have an assigned day and time each week. Life skills are nurtured through Holiday Fundraisers, and weekly offerings such as the Special Start Monday Coffee Sales.

**Art:** The art program will encompass themes such as art history, fine arts, crafts, and multi-cultural holidays. Students will produce work to be displayed in the halls and showcases, as well as in the auditorium for school performances. The program is child-centered, focusing on the individual needs and developmental levels of the children. The goal is to use “hands” to create art and to appreciate the creations of others. There is an annual spring Art Show presented by the Art teacher. This highlights the skills gained and learned within the Art program

**Physical Education:** Many different gross motor activities happen each day in physical education class. Student interact while playing sports or games. Students learn to follow instruction, listen carefully, develop good sportsmanship skills, and learn lifelong games.

Each year under the direction of our Physical Education teacher our students will participate in Field Day. This is a student-only activity and highlights skills gained over the year. Sneakers must be worn, and medical forms must be submitted before students can participate in Physical Education class.

**Vocal Music:** The students will sing, move, and create music within the vocal music program. They will also develop an understanding of different cultures through a diversified music repertoire. Musical performances will be scheduled throughout the year. Parents will be invited to attend various performances. You will be notified by flyers sent home.

**Academic Support Services:** (Students must qualify for these services.)

ENL Services: This program supports students who are learning English.

Title 1 Reading Services: This program supports students with reading and comprehension skills.

Speech Services: This program supports students with speech and language.

Resource Services: This program supports students in various academic areas.

Occupational and Physical Therapy: These programs support students with occupational and physical needs.

*Monthly Reading Logs are sent home through the Title I Reading Department.*

Response to Intervention (RTI): School Wide Staff Support.



**ENL:** The Montessori School 31 ENL program's main goal is to enrich vocabulary so that our students can express themselves in contemporary life.

Montessori School 31 is a Kindergarten through Grade 6 School. The focus of the ENL Program in Montessori School 31 is intensive English Language Instruction. This multisensory and interdisciplinary academic program is structured to meet the goals specified in the New York State ELA and ELL Learning Standards. ELL services will continue to be delivered as part of a push in/pull out program.

Montessori School 31 has a Kindergarten through Grade 6 ENL Program. The ENL Program is a pull-out program that addresses all four levels of second language acquisition. Montessori School 31 places enormous emphasis on cognitive development and English Language skills through a variety of methods, which incorporates the major skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. We have one ENL teacher who is NYS certified. Students are placed according to their language proficiency based on the NYSITELL and parent questionnaire. Our goal is to instruct students in small group settings where individual attention is given to the student's needs so that the student will comprehend the academic instruction.

A variety of researched based instructional techniques are used to develop and strengthen comprehension skills as well as increase English vocabulary and fluency. Instructional strategies include the Total Physical Response. Content area instruction in science, social studies, and math are delivered using the scaffolding method to help ELL students understand and retain content information. Instructional materials such as Santillana Intensive English as well as supplemental books, tapes and hands-on material will continued to be used to enhance the learning experience of all ELLs. In addition, multimedia approaches such as drama, music and arts and crafts will also be utilized to deliver instruction to ELL.

Essentials include parental/family involvement, workshops for all staff on the needs of ELLs, literacy and language development, and assessment accountability. Our motto for ENL in Montessori School 31 is to teach a very happy child where learning everything is fun, fun, fun!



**The Title 1 Reading Department:**

The Federally funded Title 1 Reading Intervention Program provides opportunities for students with reading difficulties to bring their skills up to grade level.

When determining which students are entitled to receive services, several factors are considered including scores on the NWEA, NYS Achievement Tests, performance feedback from teachers, as well as their economic situation.

The goal is to resolve reading problems at a more accelerated pace than would occur through basic classroom instruction. Students who need more intensive help in order to improve their reading comprehension and phonemic awareness skills are pulled from the class on a daily or semi-regular basis and are offered one-to-one or small group instruction.

The Title 1 program also create a home-school connection throughout the district by providing Parent Workshops at all schools throughout the year.

The Title 1 Program provides goals to support environments that:

1. Promote positive attitudes toward reading
2. Improves student achievement in reading
3. Builds student self-esteem and confidence
4. Enables parents to become reading partners

So we challenge you to do your part by attending Parent Workshops given by this department. We encourage you to create an organized environment, assist with time management, and support daily reading. Public Education is the equalizer that provides life opportunities creating responsible and successful citizens.



### **Speech and Language at Montessori School 31:**

Speech and language therapy is a NYS mandated driven service. This service is provided by a certified speech and language therapist. The goals of therapy are mandated by an Individualized Education Plan (I.E.P.) which has been designed by a school team.

School age speech and language therapy provides treatment and support for children who have been identified to have difficulties with areas of communication skills. Among other things, speech-language therapist play an essential role in any school's education team. As part of the team, the first job is to test/screen students for speech sound delays and disorders, language delays and disorders, and fluency disorders (such as stuttering).

Montessori 31 is a Pre-k through six grade school. The speech therapist for this district does not provide therapy to the pre-k student. The therapist provides speech and language services for students in Kindergarten through sixth grade.

According to the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA), 'Speech and language therapists are key players in reform efforts in elementary schools by focusing on helping students in a wide range of speech-language-related problems to meet performance standards. Their work includes prevention, assessment, intervention and program design efforts that are integrated within a school'.

Speech and language services may be provided in a small group or individual setting. Some issues our speech and language therapy can address in these settings may include: Improvement of speech sounds, Language and literacy, Social communication, Voice disorders and/or Fluency.



**Resource at Montessori School 31:**

The Resource Room at school 31 is not just a place, but also a placement. Because the resource room removes a child from a general education classroom for even part of the day, it is increasing the "restrictiveness" which is defined and proscribed except when necessary by IDEIA (Individual with Disabilities Educational Improvement Act.) It is part of the placement process and is considered necessary for children who are easily distracted in the general education setting, especially when new information is being introduced.

The role of the resource room is to support the academic needs of student who benefit from a small group setting as well as, supporting the classroom teacher by working on any deficits. The resource room teacher will provide students with skill building differentiated instruction, test taking strategies, organizational skills, basic skills strengthening, task analysis, meta cognitive skills, study skills, and helping students identify what type of learner they are. Students are sorted in groups of no more than five according to their ability level and work closely with the resource room teacher toward their IEP goals.

Resource rooms is a separate setting, either a classroom or a smaller designated room, where a special education program can be delivered to a student with a disability individually or in a small group. It is for the student who qualifies for either a special class or regular class placement but needs some special instruction in an individualized or small group setting for a portion of the day. Individual needs are supported in resource rooms as defined by the student's IEP. Sometimes this form of support is called Resource and Withdrawal (or pull out). The child getting this type of support will receive some time in the resource room, which refers to the withdrawal portion of the day and some time in the regular classroom with modifications and/or accommodations which are the resource support in the regular classroom. This type of support helps ensure that the inclusion model is still in place.



## Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

### Arrival Procedures:

- All students will arrive and line up in designated areas. The students will report to their supervised areas no earlier than 8:20 a.m. And no later than 8:35 a.m. **It is imperative that students arrive on time.** Late arrivals disrupt both teachers and students. Students miss instructional time. Children who are late must report to the main office for a late pass.
- Parents/guardians are **not** allowed to walk their children to the classroom.
- Breakfast Program students should report to the cafeteria at 8:20 a.m. Bus students who require breakfast may report to the cafeteria upon entering the building.
- Parking spaces are designated for school personnel. Visitors may use the street parking near the school as our parking lot is very limited.
- When dropping off students at school please follow our, "Stop and Drop," procedure.

### Dismissal Procedures:

- **Bus Students** are called to line up in the gym.
- Older siblings are dismissed at their younger sibling's exit door.
- When picking up a student at dismissal time please wait by the designated exit. Doors will open at approximately 3:10 p.m. Exits are as follows:
  - East Side Door - Pre-Primary students
  - West Side Door – Primary students
  - East Back Door (Downstairs) - Intermediate students
  - Main Door – Bus students exit
- It is important that your child remain in class until dismissal. Parents picking up students early interfere with the learning process as well as out safety and dismissal procedures.
- Early Dismissal - Medical, dental and business appointments should be scheduled after school, on holidays or on weekends. **If you MUST sign your child out prior to 3:15 p.m. please send a note stating the reason for the early dismissal, the person picking your child up and the time. Photo I.D. is required.** The student will be dismissed from the main office. **2:30 pm is the cut off time for signing out your child early from school.**
- The Yonkers Public School policy states that no student can be released from school to anyone not listed on the School Emergency Card. **Telephone permission is not acceptable.** Photo I.D. is required.

All teachers will ensure that the children are picked up by a designated person or parent. If any student remains after the 3:15 bell they will be escorted to the main office. Parents will be called. Please be sure that your child/children are picked up no later than 3:15 p.m. We have no program or staff to supervise after that time. Guardians of students who are not picked up on time on a consistent basis may be referred to Child Protective Services (CPS).

### Bus Transportation:

If your child rides a bus to school make sure:

- Your child knows his/her bus stop and how to behave while waiting for bus.
- Your child behaves cooperatively and courteously while riding the bus. Inappropriate behavior may cause accidents.
- Your child brings a note to school if you wish him/her to go home by other means. Otherwise, he/she will go home on the regular bus.

- You contact the Transportation Department at (914)376-8015 to change stops. He/she cannot go home on another bus or be dropped off at a stop other than the stop assigned by transportation.
- You live more than a mile and a half from school to qualify for transportation.
- You review bus rules in the district's School Conduct and Discipline Code.

**BREAKING OF BUS SAFETY RULES WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.**

**Attendance and Lateness**

**Attendance:**

Daily attendance is essential to a student's success in school. Most subjects are taught in a pattern or sequence, and students need to understand each concept or idea as it presented. Continuous and frequent absences create difficulty for a student and can lead to problems in the future. The law requires children to attend school every day. A written notice is required to explain any absence. A doctor's note may be required. These notes are kept on file for three years. Absences will also be recorded in an official district attendance system.

**The Yonkers Public Schools Attendance Policy lists the following attendance guidelines:**

- Call the school office in the morning if your child will not be able to attend school that day.
- Inform the school of the reason for your child's absence.
- Communicable health problems such as Chicken Pox, strep throat, or head lice must be reported to the school nurse immediately. If your child contracts head lice, all nits must be gone from the child's scalp before returning to school.
- Children who are sick should be free of fever, diarrhea and vomiting for 24 hours without the help of medication before returning to school.

A signed **absence note** from the parent or guardian **is required the day your child returns to school.**

Absent notes should list the **date(s)** your child was absent from school and **the reason for their absences. Any absence that is not accompanied by such a note will be documented as an illegal absence.**

**If a child is absent from school for more than three (3) days, a doctor's note is required.**

Excessive absences may be referred to **Child Protective Services (CPS).**

The child may also be in danger of being retained.

**Lateness:**

Just as the case with absences, all latenesses require a signed note from the parent or the guardian explaining the reason for the lateness. **Any lateness that is not accompanied by such a note will be documented as an illegal lateness.** The school day at Montessori School 31 begins promptly at **8:35 a.m.** Learning activities begin from that moment and continue throughout the day until dismissal at **3:15 p.m.** Students cannot benefit from these activities unless they are in school on time to participate in them.

**Students (except bus students) are marked late if they enter the building after 8:40 a.m. (late bell)** at which time they must come to the front desk for a late pass. Lateness is also recorded in the official attendance system.

It is important for children to arrive at school prepared and on time. Studies show that students do not perform as well as possible when they arrive late. Lateness not only interferes with your own child's learning, but it also interrupts the learning of other students. Excessive tardiness may be referred to **Child Protective Services (CPS).**

## Taking Vacations:

Parents should not make vacation plans while school is in session. These missed days will be marked as illegal absences. Parents should always consult the official Yonkers Public Schools calendar before making any plans. Teachers are not required to provide extra assignments for days illegally missed.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

**Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.**

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your child to her teachers and classmates before school starts to help her transition.
- Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

### When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

For more on school readiness, visit [attendanceworks.org](http://attendanceworks.org) and [reachoutandread.org](http://reachoutandread.org)

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# If I'm not here, I can't learn.



 every student  
**present!**  
bright futures begin with good school attendance

Missing just a few days of school a month can hurt a child's math and reading skills or even their chance of graduating. Please help us reduce chronic absence.

Find out more at [www.everystudentpresent.org/parents](http://www.everystudentpresent.org/parents)

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# How Can You Help Your Child?

Find out more at [www.everystudentpresent.org/parents](http://www.everystudentpresent.org/parents)

## **For younger students:**

- Know the school's attendance policy and when school starts.
- Make sure your child has the required shots needed for school.
- Let your child meet teachers and classmates before school starts.
- Have a regular bed time and morning routine—lay out clothes the night before.
- Schedule medical appointments after school.
- Don't plan extended trips when school is in session.
- Have a back-up plan for getting to school when something comes up.
- Have your child stay home only when truly sick.

## **For older students:**

- Know the school's attendance policy and when school starts.
  - Talk with your child about acceptable and unacceptable behavior and grades.
  - Encourage your child to be active in school by joining clubs or sports teams.
  - Know your child's friends.
  - Ask your child how you can help.
  - Have your child stay home only when truly sick.
-

**Cuando no asisto a la  
escuela, mis oportunidades  
se desvanecen.**



Faltar a la escuela tan solo algunos días al mes puede perjudicar las habilidades de los niños para las matemáticas y la lectura, o incluso su probabilidad de graduarse. Ayúdenos a reducir el ausentismo crónico.

Conozca más en [www.everystudentpresent.org/parents](http://www.everystudentpresent.org/parents)

---

# ¿Cómo puede ayudar a su hijo?

Conozca más en [www.everystudentpresent.org/parents](http://www.everystudentpresent.org/parents)

## **Para estudiantes más pequeños:**

- Conozca la política de asistencia de la escuela y cuándo empiezan las clases.
- Asegúrese de que su hijo tenga las vacunas necesarias para la escuela.
- Permita que su hijo conozca a los maestros y compañeros de clase antes de que comience la escuela.
- Establezca un horario regular para dormir y una rutina por la mañana, prepare la ropa la noche anterior.
- Programe las citas médicas después de la escuela.
- No planifique viajes prolongados durante el período escolar.
- Tenga un plan de respaldo O un plan secundario para llegar a la escuela cuando surge un imprevisto.
- Deje a su hijo en casa solo cuando está realmente enfermo.

## **Para estudiantes más grandes:**

- Conozca la política de asistencia de la escuela y cuándo empiezan las clases.
- Hable con su hijo sobre la conducta y las calificaciones aceptables e inaceptables.
- Aliente a su hijo a estar activo en la escuela al inscribirse en clubes o equipos deportivos.
- Conozca a los amigos de su hijo.
- Pregunte a su hijo en qué le puede ayudar.
- Deje que su hijo se quede en casa solo cuando está realmente enfermo.

**When I miss school,  
my opportunities  
disappear...**



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  - Know your child's friends.
  - Ask your child how you can help.
  - Have your child stay home only when truly sick.
-

# Si no estoy presente, no puedo aprender.



Faltar a la escuela tan solo algunos días al mes puede perjudicar las habilidades de los niños para las matemáticas y la lectura, o incluso su probabilidad de graduarse. Ayúdenos a reducir el ausentismo crónico.

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- Pregunte a su hijo en qué le puede ayudar.
- Deje que su hijo se quede en casa solo cuando está realmente enfermo.

## Health, Physicals and Immunizations

### **Illness:**

In the event of illness (sore throat, coughing, runny nose, etc.), parents are requested to keep children at home until they are well enough to return to school. This is for the safety and well-being of your child and for the other children. If your child has any health problems, such as allergies, etc., please notify the nurse and teacher in writing. If your child needs to take medication during the school day, we will need written consent from the physician and you.

### **Physicals:**

New York State has mandated certain grade levels for physical examination. The mandated grade levels are Pre-K, K, 2, 4, 7 and 10. Physical examinations continue to be required for any student new to the district.

Your child must be examined by a physician before entering school for the first time. They must have all necessary immunizations. Your child cannot participate in the Physical Education Program (Gym Class) without a current medical form from your physician.

If your child is ill, keep your child home from school. Be alert to the following symptoms – Fever, sore throat, runny nose, coughing, earache, skin rash, vomiting, pain and chills. Check with your doctor for proper diagnosis and treatment and the proper time to return to school. Communicable diseases, such as chicken pox, strep throat, ringworm or head lice, must be reported to the school nurse. If your child has stitches or a broken bone, he/she must also report to the school nurse for medical clearance. Remember to send a note for all absences and latenesses.

### **Illness at School:**

If your child becomes ill at school, your child should tell the teacher who will send the child to the health professional. We will call you if there is any injury that requires treatment or if your child needs to go home. **A phone number where you can be reached during the day is mandatory and must be updated whenever there is a change.**

### **Medication:**

The school cannot administer non-prescription drugs to children. Please do not send your child to school with non-prescription drugs.

Prescribed medication can only be administered after a medication form has been filled out by the doctor and returned to school. A note from a parent is not sufficient for supplying medication to students.



## Immunizations:

New York State requires the following immunizations:

Vaccines	Prekindergarten (Day Care, Head Start, Nursery or Pre-k)	Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, 3 and 4	Grade 5	Grades 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10	Grades 11 and 12
Diphtheria and Tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine and Pertussis vaccine (DTaP/DTP/Tdap/Td) <sup>2</sup>	4 doses	5 doses or 4 doses if the 4th dose was received at 4 years or older or 3 doses if 7 years or older and the series was started at 1 year or older		3 doses	
Tetanus and Diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine and Pertussis vaccine booster (Tdap) <sup>3</sup>	Not applicable			1 dose	
Polio vaccine (IPV/OPV) <sup>4</sup>	3 doses	4 doses or 3 doses if the 3rd dose was received at 4 years or older	3 doses	4 doses or 3 doses if the 3rd dose was received at 4 years or older	3 doses
Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine (MMR) <sup>5</sup>	1 dose	2 doses			
Hepatitis B vaccine <sup>6</sup>	3 doses	3 doses or 2 doses of adult hepatitis B vaccine (Recombivax) for children who received the doses at least 4 months apart between the ages of 11 through 15 years			
Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine <sup>7</sup>	1 dose	2 doses	1 dose	2 doses	1 dose
Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) <sup>8</sup>	Not applicable			Grades 7, 8 and 9: 1 dose	Grade 12: 2 doses or 1 dose if the dose was received at 16 years or older
Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccine (Hib) <sup>9</sup>	1 to 4 doses	Not applicable			
Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine (PCV) <sup>10</sup>	1 to 4 doses	Not applicable			

From <https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2370.pdf>

## **Lunch and Breakfast Program**

### **All Yonkers Public School Students receive breakfast and lunch at NO CHARGE.**

- Prekindergarten through Grade 12 students can take advantage of daily healthy wholesome meals.
- Breakfast is available every morning in each school cafeteria. Lunch is served every day in each school cafeteria.
- New Grab And Go Breakfast Service is available after the school day has begun.

Good nutrition has a significant positive impact on students' academic, social/emotional and physical development. All school meal food choices are fully compliant with USDA and NYS regulations for nutrient standards.

In July 2018, the District received notification from the NYSED Child Nutrition Program that Yonkers was approved to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which enables school districts to **serve all students breakfast and lunch at no charge**. The CEP initiative coordinates excellently with the new mandatory New York State Breakfast After the Bell legislation.

The Breakfast After the Bell – Grab And Go Breakfast Service is available to children who arrive at school after the school day has begun. Time spent by students consuming breakfast may be considered instructional time when students consume breakfast in the students' classrooms and instruction is being provided while students are consuming breakfast.

Students are encouraged to maintain a pleasant atmosphere conducive to proper digestion of food. Orderly lunch periods, respect for adults, respect for one another, and proper behavior and handling of food are expected. (Source: <https://www.yonkerspublicschools.org/menus>)

**The Lunchtime for Grades Pre K - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade at Montessori School 31 is 11:35 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.**

### **Useful Information**

#### **Birthday Parties:**

Please be sure to coordinate any celebrations with your child's teacher ahead of time. These parties are for class members only. Please do not invite students from other classes to the in class celebration. We encourage classroom birthday celebrations to be scheduled for Fridays after 2:00 p.m.

#### **Lost and Found:**

All lost and found items are usually displayed outside of the main office. Students and parents looking for lost possessions should check this area periodically.

#### **Media Denial Forms:**

Media Denial Forms are given out at the beginning of the school year. Please sign and return to your child's teacher only if you are denying permission for your child to be photographed.

#### **Open House:**

This year Open House will be held on the evening of September 24, 2019. Our Open house date is generally in September or October. We begin the evening in the school auditorium. Please join us and meet your child's teacher. This is not an opportunity for a one to one conference with the teacher.

**Parent Teacher Conferences:**

There will be two regularly scheduled Parent/Teacher conferences with your child's teacher during the school year. Students will be dismissed at **12:00** noon on these two days and lunch will not be served. There will be no after-school programs on these days. Parent meetings begin at 1:00 p.m. and end at 3:15 p.m. Please schedule an appointment with your child's teachers for these days. Parents should also feel comfortable to arrange a conference at any time of year if they have questions or concerns. **The conference dates for the 2019-2020 school year are December 13<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**Parking:**

For the safety of all students please respect the, "No Parking," signs posted and follow instructions in an effort to allow busses to safely pick up and discharge students. It is imperative that the **stop and drop-off** procedures are enforced.

**PTA:**

Please join the PTA. Our program is designed to encourage parent participation. This can be accomplished by joining the Parent Teacher Association and attending specific educational workshops. If you are interested in becoming a member please come to our first General PTA Meeting.

**Special Events:**

You will be notified in advance of special programs and events at our school through flyers and in our monthly **Calendar of Events**. We will celebrate holidays with celebrations that will enrich the children's knowledge and appreciation for diversity. Flyers will be sent home in advance for all celebrations.

**Uniform Policy:**

As part of our safe school plan the Yonkers Public Schools has adopted a school uniform policy for all students in Pre-Kindergarten through sixth grade. Students must wear uniforms daily. The school uniform for Montessori 31 consists of the following: Navy pants or skirt, light blue top/blouse and sneakers. Uniforms are non-competitive, improve academic performance and self-esteem and enables school personnel to identify those students assigned to the school building.

**Visitors:**

Visitors are requested to make appointments. Parents are welcome at Montessori School 31. We believe that parents are an integral part of our school and we welcome their involvement and participation. **In order to protect our students and maintain a secure environment all parents and visitors are asked to use the main entrance and report to the main office.** At that time we will assist you in any way we can. A visitor's pass will be issued to all visitors. Please note that our main entrance is locked for security reasons during the school day. You may obtain access to the building by using the buzzer.

Visitor tours are scheduled during the time of School Choice on Wednesdays at 9:30 am.

**Volunteers:**

Montessori School 31 welcomes parents and members of the community to volunteer their time and services. Currently our school utilizes volunteers from the S.M.A.R.T. program (Students And Mature Adults Read Together.) Volunteers are needed to help out as class parents and with fundraising.

## **Emergency School Closing / Delayed Opening**

### **Emergency Cards:**

It is extremely important that each child have their parent/guardian complete and return three emergency cards in order for the school to be able to contact someone in the event of an emergency. One card is kept on file in the main office, one with the classroom teacher and the other card is kept in the nurse's office. These emergency cards must be kept up to date with the telephone numbers of any individual authorized to pick up your child from school and are most important in an emergency. We must have at least three phone numbers of persons we can reach in case of an emergency. Please include cell phone numbers and call the office when these numbers change.

Please notify the school if anyone listed on the card has a change of telephone or address at home or work or if you wish to add another name to the list of authorized adults on the card. Students cannot be released to minors or unauthorized adults (individuals not listed on the emergency cards) as per district policy. Please be sure the information on all (3) emergency cards are the same.

### **Emergency Dismissal Forms:**

Each child is requested to have their parent/guardian to complete and return the Emergency Dismissal Form. The information is necessary in the event of an emergency dismissal. Please notify the school of any changes regarding emergency dismissal for your child during the year.

### **Emergency Closings:**

If a decision is made to delay the opening of school, to close for the day, or to cancel after-school and weekend activities, information is rapidly distributed to the school community via these communications channels:

- **Website url: <https://www.yonkerspublicschools.org/>**

A notice is prominently placed in a red background across the top of the homepage, and on each school's website.

- **Telephone**

Phone calls are made to families via the Blackboard Connect school-to-home messaging system.

- **Social Media**

Information is shared via the District's official Facebook page, and Twitter news feed. Be sure to join these communities by "liking" on Facebook and following on Twitter.

- **Email**

If you are not already a subscriber to the YPS News email service, please sign up. Emails are sent within minutes of any decision to delay, close or cancel. Gmail users: if you subscribe and do not see messages from YPS News, please look in the Promotions tab, or in your Spam folder.

- **WDMC-TV**

The District's education channel features the news prominently. Find it on Cablevision Channel 75 and Verizon FiOS Channel 38.



- **Local Radio and Television**

These radio and television stations include information about Yonkers Public Schools in their weather closing announcements:

WCBS (880 AM)

WINS (1010 AM)

WHUD (100.7 FM)

WNBC-TV (Ch. 4)

WABC-TV (Ch. 7)

WNYW-TV (Ch. 5)

WCBS-TV (Ch. 2)

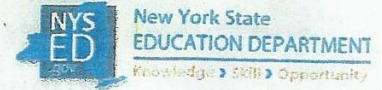
WRNN-TV (Ch. 501 or 1 Verizon FiOS)

News 12-TV (Ch. 12 - Cablevision)



# 5

## Things every parent should know about New York State's plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act



### What is ESSA?

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a law that outlines how states can use federal money to support public schools. In January 2018, the federal government approved New York State's plan to spend the approximately \$1.6 billion the state receives annually under ESSA.

### Why does it matter?

New York State is committed to ensuring that all students succeed and thrive in school no matter who they are, where they live, where they go to school, or where they come from. Since fall 2016, New York State asked for feedback to design a plan that improves equity, access, and opportunity for *all* students.

### What do parents need to know?

Below are highlights of important elements for parents and families in the plan. We encourage you to visit [the ESSA Section of NYSED's website](#) to learn more about the plan.

## 1

### New York State values a well-rounded education for all.

Parents and families should know how their child's school is performing in many areas, not just academic subjects.

#### Schools and districts will be measured annually on these indicators

##### For all schools

- English language arts
- Math
- Science
- Progress in learning English (for those who are learning English as an additional language)
- Chronic absenteeism (absent 10% or more instructional days)

##### For high schools

- Social studies
- Graduation rate
- College, career, and civic readiness index: taking advanced coursework, earning technical education certificates, etc.

#### Future indicators

- Out-of-school suspensions (beginning with 2018-19 results)
- Being ready for high school (once data becomes available)

## 2

### New York State wants to reduce testing time and improve the testing experience.



State tests in grades 3-8 English and math will be reduced from three to two days each.

## 95%

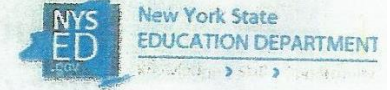
The law requires that 95% of students in each tested subgroup take the appropriate state tests. New York State will work with parents, schools, and districts to increase participation.



New York State will continue to translate state math and science tests into more languages, and when funding becomes available, will create a language arts tests in students' native languages.

# 5

## cosas que todos los **padres** deben saber sobre el plan del Estado de Nueva York en relación con la ley **Every Student Succeeds Act**



### ¿Qué es la ESSA?

La Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) es una ley que resume cómo los estados pueden utilizar el dinero federal para sustentar las escuelas públicas. En enero de 2018, el gobierno federal aprobó el plan del Estado de Nueva York para el gasto de los aproximadamente \$1.6 mil millones que el estado recibe anualmente según la ESSA.

### ¿Por qué es importante?

El Estado de Nueva York está comprometido a garantizar que todos los estudiantes tengan éxito y progresen en la escuela, independientemente de quiénes son, dónde viven, a qué escuela van o de dónde provienen. Desde el otoño de 2016, el Estado de Nueva York ha realizado sondeos de opinión para diseñar un plan que mejore la equidad, el acceso y la oportunidad para *todos* los estudiantes.

### ¿Qué deben saber los padres?

A continuación se destacan los aspectos importantes para los padres y los familiares en el contexto del plan. Recomendamos visitar la sección sobre ESSA del sitio web del NYSED para obtener más información sobre el plan.

1

### El Estado de Nueva York valora la educación completa e integral para todos.

Los padres y familiares deben saber cómo se desempeña la escuela de su hijo en muchas áreas, no solo en las asignaturas académicas.

Las escuelas y distritos se evaluarán anualmente según estos indicadores:

Indicadores futuros:

#### Para todas las escuelas

- Artes del lenguaje en inglés
- Matemáticas
- Ciencias
- Progreso en el aprendizaje de inglés (para quienes aprenden inglés como idioma adicional)
- Ausentismo crónico (ausente durante el 10 % o más días lectivos)

#### Para escuelas secundarias

- Estudios sociales
- Índice de graduación
- Índices universitarios, de carrera y de preparación cívica: realizar cursos avanzados, obtener certificados de educación técnica, etc.

- Suspensiones fuera de la escuela (con resultados de 2018-19)
- Preparación para la secundaria (una vez que la información esté disponible)

2

### El Estado de Nueva York desea reducir el tiempo de evaluación y mejorar la experiencia de evaluación.



Los exámenes estatales de inglés y matemáticas de los grados 3 a 8 se reducirán de tres a dos días cada uno.

95 %

La ley exige que el 95 % de los estudiantes de cada subgrupo evaluado realice los exámenes estatales apropiados. El Estado de Nueva York trabajará con los padres, escuelas y distritos para aumentar la participación.



El Estado de Nueva York continuará traduciendo los exámenes de matemáticas y ciencias a más idiomas y, cuando tenga los fondos disponibles, creará un examen de artes del lenguaje en la lengua materna de los estudiantes.

**YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2019-2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

**JULY 2019**

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

**AUGUST**

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

**SEPTEMBER**

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

S-17 T-19

**OCTOBER**

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

S-20 T-20

**NOVEMBER**

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

S-17 T-18

**DECEMBER**

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

S-15 T-15

**JULY 2019**

- 1 EXTENDED YR PROGRAM AT WESTCHESTER HILLS SCHOOL 29 BEGINS (ENDS 8/9)
- 8 SECONDARY SUMMER SCHOOL BEGINS (ENDS 8/12)
- 4 CENTRAL OFFICE CLOSED - FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY

**AUGUST**

- 13-14 SUMMER SCHOOL REGENTS EXAMS
- 14 BUILDING ADMINISTRATORS RETURN – STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
- 22 SUMMER SCHOOL GRADUATION
- 28-29 TEACHING ASSISTANTS REPORT TO WORK (PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

**SEPTEMBER**

FIRST MARKING PERIOD:	MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS (GRADES 7-12):	SEPTEMBER 5 – NOVEMBER 8
FALL MARKING PERIOD:	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (GRADES 1-6):	SEPTEMBER 5 – NOVEMBER 27
FIRST MARKING PERIOD:	PRE-K & K STUDENTS:	SEPTEMBER 5 – JANUARY 24

- 2 SCHOOLS/CENTRAL OFFICE CLOSED – LABOR DAY
- 3-4 SUPERINTENDENT’S CONFERENCE DAYS  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS/PPS STAFF  
ONE HALF-DAY FOR CLASSROOM/PROGRAM PREPARATION  
10-MONTH CSEA BEGIN 9/3
- 5 ALL STUDENTS REPORT TO SCHOOL – EXCEPT PRE-KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS  
FULL DAY FOR STUDENTS AND ALL STAFF; FOOD SERVICE BEGINS
- 6 PRE-KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS REPORT TO SCHOOL – HALF-DAY
- 9 FIRST FULL DAY FOR PRE-KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS
- 30 SCHOOLS/CENTRAL OFFICE CLOSED – ROSH HASHANAH

**OCTOBER**

INTERIM REPORTS DISTRIBUTION:	MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS (GRADES 7-12):	WEEK OF OCTOBER 14
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- 1 SCHOOLS/CENTRAL OFFICE CLOSED – ROSH HASHANAH
- 9 SCHOOLS/CENTRAL OFFICE CLOSED – YOM KIPPUR
- 14 SCHOOLS/CENTRAL OFFICE CLOSED – COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVED
- 16 COLLEGE BOARD TESTING DAY FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

**NOVEMBER**

INTERIM REPORTS DISTRIBUTION:	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (GRADES 1-6):	WEEK OF NOVEMBER 4
SECOND MARKING PERIOD:	MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS (GRADES 7-12):	NOVEMBER 11 – JANUARY 24
REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION:	MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS (GRADES 7-12):	WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25

- 5 SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR STUDENTS – ELECTION DAY  
SUPERINTENDENT’S CONFERENCE DAY FOR STAFF
- 11 SCHOOLS/CENTRAL OFFICE CLOSED – VETERANS’ DAY
- 28-29 SCHOOLS/CENTRAL OFFICE CLOSED - THANKSGIVING RECESS

**DECEMBER**

WINTER MARKING PERIOD:	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (GRADES 1-6):	DECEMBER 2 – MARCH 13
REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION:	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (GRADES 1-6):	WEEK OF DECEMBER 9

- 13 ALL STUDENTS REPORT TO SCHOOL, ½ DAY FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS  
(PARENT CONFERENCES); FULL DAY FOR STAFF
- 23-31 SCHOOLS CLOSED – HOLIDAY RECESS
- 24-25 CENTRAL OFFICE CLOSED (CHRISTMAS DAY 12/25)

Total Days Schools in Session: 182  
 Total Days Teachers in Attendance: (185)  
 Total Days for Teaching Assistants: (187)

Approved 4/24/19

## YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2019-2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR

### JANUARY 2020

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

S-21

T-21

### FEBRUARY

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

S-15

T-15

### MARCH

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

S-22

T-22

### APRIL

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

S-16

T-16

### MAY

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

S-19

T-19

### JUNE

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

S-20

T-20

### JANUARY 2020

INTERIM REPORTS DISTRIBUTION:	MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 7-12):	WEEK OF JANUARY 6
THIRD MARKING PERIOD:	MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS (GRADES 7-12):	JANUARY 27 – APRIL 17
SECOND MARKING PERIOD:	PRE-K & K STUDENTS:	JANUARY 27 – JUNE 26

- 1 SCHOOLS/CENTRAL OFFICE CLOSED (NEW YEAR'S DAY 1/1)
- 2 SCHOOLS REOPEN AFTER HOLIDAY RECESS
- 20 SCHOOLS/CENTRAL OFFICE CLOSED - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
- 21-24 REGENTS EXAMS/RATING – HIGH SCHOOLS ONLY

### FEBRUARY

INTERIM REPORTS DISTRIBUTION:	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (GRADES 1-6):	WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3
REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION:	MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS (GRADES 7-12):	WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3
REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION:	PRE-K & K STUDENTS:	WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24

- 17-21 SCHOOLS CLOSED – WINTER RECESS
- 17-18 CENTRAL OFFICE CLOSED – PRESIDENTS' HOLIDAYS
- 24 SCHOOLS REOPEN AFTER WINTER RECESS

### MARCH

REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION:	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (GRADES 1-6):	WEEK OF MARCH 16
SPRING MARKING PERIOD:	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (GRADES 1-6):	MARCH 16 – JUNE 26
INTERIM REPORTS DISTRIBUTION:	MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS (GRADES 7-12):	WEEK OF MARCH 30

- 20 ALL STUDENTS REPORT TO SCHOOL, 1/2 DAY FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS (PARENT CONFERENCES); FULL DAY FOR STAFF
- 24-31 NEW YORK STATE ELA ASSESSMENTS (MAKE-UP 3/30/20 – 4/3/19)

### APRIL

FOURTH MARKING PERIOD:	MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS (GRADES 7-12):	APRIL 20 – JUNE 26
REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION:	MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS (GRADES 7-12):	WEEK OF APRIL 27

- 6-13 SCHOOLS CLOSED – SPRING RECESS
- 10-13 CENTRAL OFFICE CLOSED (GOOD FRIDAY 4/10)
- 14 SCHOOLS REOPEN AFTER SPRING RECESS
- 20-27 NEW YORK STATE MATH ASSESSMENTS (MAKE-UP 4/24/19 – 4/30/19)

### MAY

INTERIM REPORTS DISTRIBUTED:	MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS (GRADES 7-12):	WEEK OF MAY 11
INTERIM REPORTS DISTRIBUTION:	ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (GRADES 1-6):	WEEK OF MAY 18

- 22-25 SCHOOLS/CENTRAL OFFICE CLOSED – MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

### JUNE

REPORT CARD DISTRIBUTION:	FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS	WEEK OF JUNE 22
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- 2 REGENTS EXAMS (U.S. HISTORY/GOVERNMENT)
- 11 SECONDARY FINAL EXAMS TO BEGIN
- 17-26 REGENTS EXAMS/RATING – HIGH SCHOOLS ONLY (RATING DAY 6/26)
- 25 HALF DAY FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
- 26 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL/REGENTS RATING DAY  
HALF-DAY FOR STUDENTS/HOURLY STAFF  
FULL-DAY FOR STAFF (EXCEPT FOR HOURLY STAFF)

### MAKE-UP DAY CALENDAR

#### PLEASE DO NOT MAKE ANY PLANS FOR THE MAKE-UP DAYS LISTED

The first two emergency closing days are built into the calendar – no make-up

- 3 Emergency Closing Days Used – Schools will be open May 22
- 4 Emergency Closing Days Used – Schools will be open April 6
- 5 Emergency Closing Days Used – Schools will be open April 7
- 6 Emergency Closing Days Used – Schools will be open April 8
- 7 Emergency Closing Days Used – Schools will be open April 9
- 8 Emergency Closing Days Used – Schools will be open April 13

Total Days Schools in Session: 182  
 Total Days Teachers in Attendance: (185)  
 Total Days for Teaching Assistants: (187)

Approved 4/24/19

# Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"  
reads **20 minutes**  
each day

3600 minutes in  
a school year

Student "B"  
reads **5 minutes**  
each day

900 minutes in  
a school year

Student "C"  
reads **1 minute**  
each day

180 minutes in  
a school year

**1,800,000 words**



*90<sup>th</sup> percentile*

**282,000 words**



*50<sup>th</sup> percentile*

**8,000 words**



*10<sup>th</sup> percentile*

By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

# ¿Por Qué No Puedo Saltar Mis 20 Minutos de Lectura Diaria?

**Alumno "A" lee  
20 minutos  
cada día**

**3600 minutos en un  
año escolar  
1,800,000 palabras**



*90 percentil*

**Alumno "B" lee  
5 minutos  
cada día**

**900 minutos en un año  
escolar  
282,000 palabras**



*50 percentil*

**Alumno "C" lee  
1 minuto  
cada día**

**180 minutos en un año  
escolar  
8,000 palabras**



*10 percentil*

**Para el final del 6º grado, el Alumno "A" habrá leído el equivalente de 60 días completos de clases. El alumno "B" habrá leído únicamente 12 días de clases. ¿Cuál alumno crees que tendrá un mejor vocabulario? ¿Cuál alumno crees que tendrá más logros en la escuela...y en la vida?**

**(Nagy & Herman, 1987)**

**G**ive it your best

**R**edo if needed

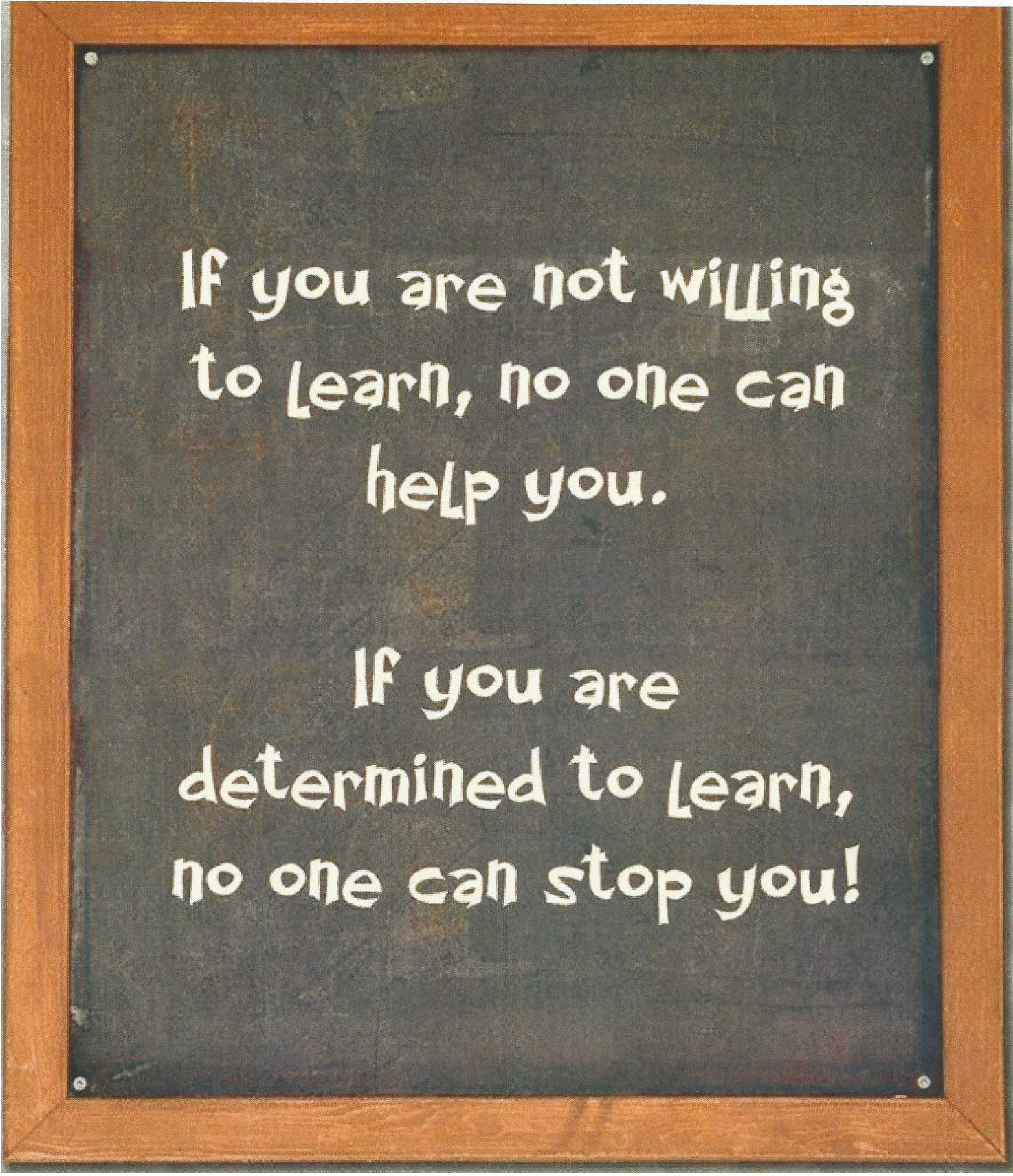
**I**gnore negatives

**T**ake your time



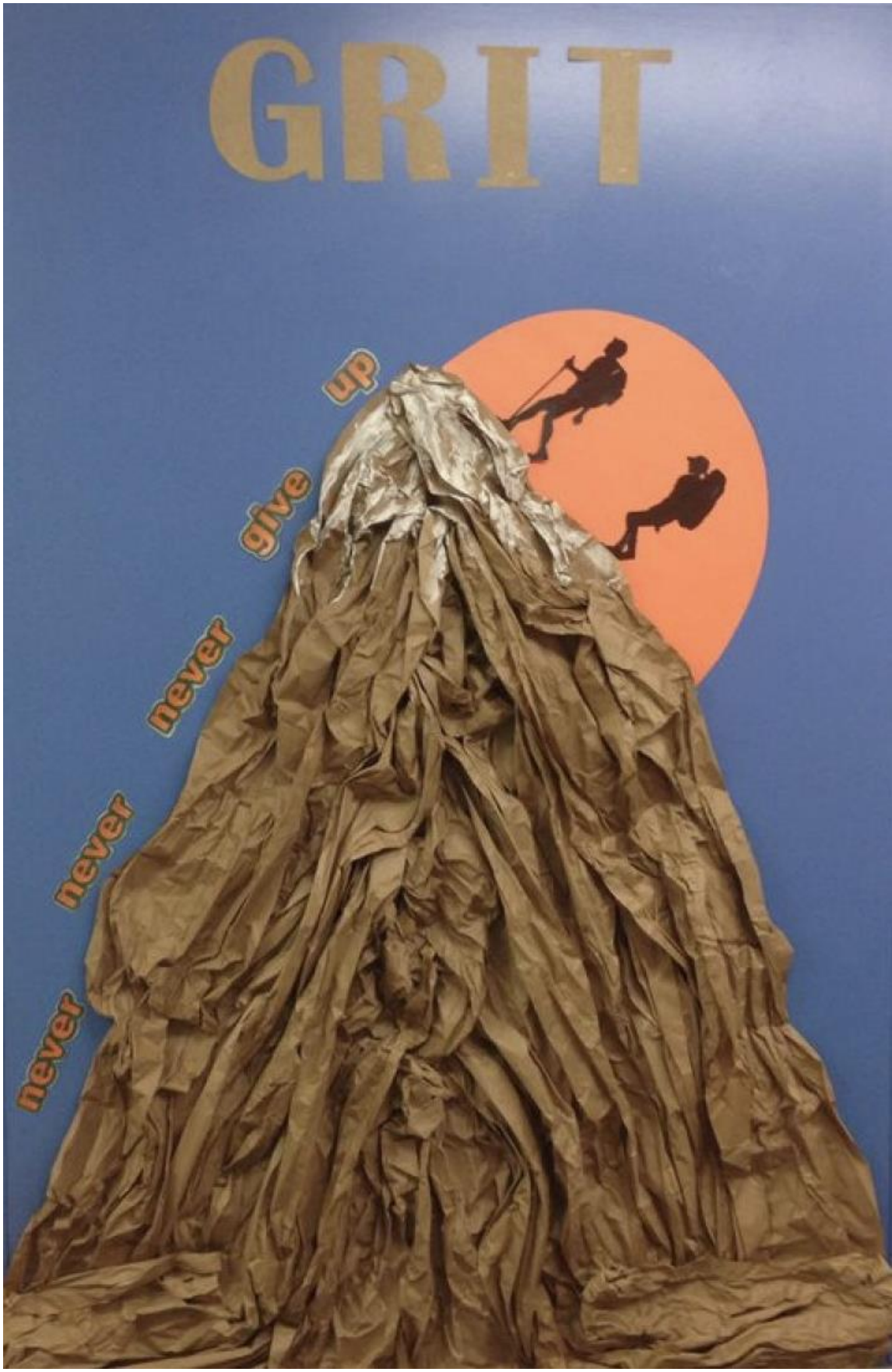
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If you are not willing  
to learn, no one can  
help you.

If you are  
determined to learn,  
no one can stop you!





Thank You for Joining Our  
Montessori Community



*"Free the child's potential, and you will  
transform him into the world."*

*- Maria Montessori*