



23-24 Walker Start of School Updates

1 message

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Tue, Aug 22, 2023 at 7:43 PM

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To: Walker Elementary School Recipients <recipients@district65.parentlink.net>



News, Announcements, and Reminders

Walker Families,

We are ready for a new school year!

Your child's teacher likely sent a welcome email. If you did not get one don't know who your child's teacher is, please let me know.

Here is everything you need to know about the start of school.

Entry and Exit

Students may enter as early as 8:50 am and head to their classroom. Instruction starts at 9:05 and students are considered tardy if they aren't here by then.

Students in K-2 will enter through Door 2 on the south side of the school near the primary playground.

Students in 3-5 will enter through Door 4 on the west side of the building near the cafeteria.

Students in Ms. Wittenberg's class (113) are welcome to enter through Door #7 on the east side of the school near her classroom.

If you have children in multiple grades entering and exiting through different doors, feel free to email your older child's teacher to let them know they will meet their sibling at Door 2. It's the same with entry -- we are not going to turn a child away if they are with their sibling/neighbor but generally we do like to have kids enter through the assigned doors.

There will be staff at all doors to assist students as they enter -- and to direct them to the right classroom.

You should make sure your child knows that you are going to say goodbye to them at the door and will not be able to walk them to the classroom. Please feel free to take as much time as you need with your child tomorrow morning, but know that my team is there to help you -- and get kids to class!

[Immediately after drop off you should head to the picnic tables near Door 4 for the annual PTA First Day of School Coffee.](#)

All students in Grades K-2 being picked up at the end of the day exit through Door #2. Teachers will make eye contact with the pick up person and release the child to adults.

Students in Grades 3-5 exit through Door #4. We don't require a person to meet students in these grades as they often walk home alone/with friends. It's helpful to email your child's teacher to let them know how your child will typically get home.

At around 3:45 we take kids who have not been picked up to the main office. You can pick them up there -- through Door 1 on the east side of the building.

If your child is in our school aged child care program or Right at School, their teacher and the program providers will work together to ensure they get to the right spot after school.

Here are the recess and lunch times. Recess is always prior to the student's lunch period.

Kindergarten	10:30-11:00	11:00-11:20
1st Grade	10:50-11:20	11:20-11:40
2nd Grade	11:25-11:55	11:55-12:15
3rd Grade	11:45-12:15	12:15-12:35
4th Grade	12:20-12:50	12:50-1:10
5th Grade	12:40-1:10	1:10-1:30

Individual teachers have procedures about snacks during the day. They will communicate them with you.

[Lunch Menus are here.](#)

School meals are NOT free. Families are encouraged to [Apply for a free or reduced lunch here.](#)

Families must apply EACH year for a free or reduced lunch.

For assistance in completing the meal application, please contact the Nutrition Services Department at (847) 859-8130 and nutritionservices@district65.net.

If you are paying for school lunch you need to sign up for a [My School Bucks](#) account.

We don't let kids go hungry... so don't worry if you don't have your child's account loaded prior to tomorrow... but the district will bill you!

We have four bus routes this year. I emailed parents of children who ride the bus with some information about Smart Tag, an app that tracks progress of the bus.

Please note the first week(s) of bus service is a little rocky as the drivers learn the route. Pick up times will likely fluctuate. Sorry in advance.

You can direct transportation questions to transportation@district65.net. Feel free to copy me on the email so I can stay in the loop.

Heat Advisory

Have you heard it's going to be hot tomorrow and Wednesday? Make sure to send your child with a water bottle if you have one.

All district schools will follow this guidance from D65:

- All Wednesday afternoon and Thursday outdoor events and activities will be canceled, rescheduled, or moved indoors. This includes the D65 Back-to School Ice Cream Social/Interim Superintendent Meet & Greet on Thursday.
 - Before and after school childcare will still be held indoors.
 - Schools will follow inclement weather procedures for arrival and dismissal. Students will be allowed extra time indoors when arriving at school and waiting for transportation after school.
 - Recess will be held indoors on Wednesday and Thursday.
 - All air conditioning systems will be left on continuously starting this afternoon until Thursday when high temperatures are expected to subside.
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The PTA is hosting a Back to School Ice Cream Social on August 31st.

Aileen Goldman, individualized educator at Walker resigned her position to work closer to home. Measher Fisher has been hired to fill this role. Last year Ms. Fisher was our school's concierge. Prior to relocating to Evanston, Ms. Fisher was a special educator in Marietta Georgia. I am excited that Ms. Fisher will remain at Walker this school year!

We have 21 new faces at Walker this year which is an all time high for me as a principal! The staff had professional learning the last few days and a lot of it was spent on getting to know one another.

Hello, my name is Samantha Brooks (she/her) and I'm the Coordinator of Individualized Education Services (IES). As the Coordinator of IES, I oversee Individualized Education Services department at Walker, formerly known as Special Education Services, in conjunction with Mr. Gray and Mrs. Wharton. I hope you all had a beautiful summer and

all your little (and maybe some *not so little*) wolverines are super stoked to return to school. I know that I am. Though, I am really going to miss riding along the lakefront.

This calendar year I will be supporting Walker, Kingsley and Haven. I have worked in education for well over a decade. I began my career as an adaptive swim instruction/coach. Then, I went on to be a reading specialist for a private company. In 2016, I graduated with my Master in Education and started teaching Special Education right here in District 65. I just wrapped up my 8th year in the public sector of education.

If you have any questions in relation to your child's IEP/504 feel free to email me and the admin team, at brookss@district65.net.



Finally, here is a picture of my daughter Vera (youngest of 4). She started Kindergarten this week and is still angry with me about my sunscreen blunder in July.



Summer's over Vera! Summer's over Walker Families!

James

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