



# Welcome to the Walker Wolverines PTA! 2024-2025

## PTA Executive Board

### Co-Presidents:

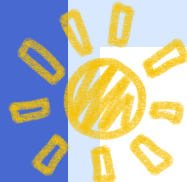
Kathy Vyas  
Nicole Gilman-O'Connell

### Secretary:

Darlana Simmons

### Treasurer:

Genevieve Comeau



## From the Principal's Desk

I am excited to welcome all our students, both returning and new, to Walker for the 24-25 school year. This year promises to be filled with growth, learning, and opportunities for our students to shine.

My top priority is to ensure that every child feels safe, valued, and challenged. Our dedicated team of teachers and staff work hard to prepare engaging lessons for your children. We are committed to providing a nurturing environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Communication between home and school is essential to our shared success. Throughout the year, we will be sharing important information and updates through our school website, newsletters, and emails. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teachers or to me directly if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. We value your partnership and look forward to working together to support your child's education. We look forward to a wonderful school year!

James Gray, Principal



## Committees & Events Chairs

### Audit

Genevieve Comeau

### Book Fair

Liz Pawlak & Katie Weiss

### Climate Action

Jennifer Gilbert

### Community Engagement

Robin Linn & Ashanti Madlock

### DEI

Sylvia Jackson

### Fundraising

Amanda Hulse

### Garden

Sylvia Kim Kilcullen

### International Night

Cecilie Broch Ryan

### Lost & Found

Sarah Trulley

### PEP Rep

Liz Ribeiro

### Teacher Appreciation

Erin Sacluti

### Walker Fest

Erin Ellison & Amanda Hulse

### Yearbook

Darlana Simmons & Erin Sacluti



## Attendance

The Walker School Attendance Line has been organized to help determine whether absent children are ill or if they have not arrived to school on time. The Health Clerk makes calls between 9:30 and 10:00 am to homes of all children marked absent.

If your child is going to be absent, please call the Attendance Line anytime before 9:00 am (evenings and weekends are ok) each morning for the duration of the absence. When you call, please state the child's name, your name & relationship, and reason for the absence.

If your child is tardy, they must check in at the Health Office and get a pass to give to their homeroom teacher.

If your child needs to leave school early, please call the school office to make arrangements. Your child will need to be signed out from school in the Health Office.

## Homework Policy

Homework will be given at the discretion of the individual teacher.  
Contact your teacher for more details.

## Enrichment Activities

Right At School (RAS) is the enrichment provider for all of District 65. The enrichment offerings & schedule are different each trimester. Full and partial scholarships are available. Please contact the Right At School Area Manager, Amber Woodson, with any questions at:  
amber.woodson@rightatschool.com or  
walker@rightatschool.com or go online:  
[www.rightatschool.com/contact-us](http://www.rightatschool.com/contact-us)

## Lost & Found

The Lost & Found is located in the main hallway, next to the Auditorium. Please check it for any missing items. All items left will be donated to ESSCA or other local charities before winter break and at the end of the school year.

## District Resources

### School Handbook:

<https://www.district65.net/families/be-informed/student-handbook>

### Powerschool:

[www.district65.powerschool.com/public](http://www.district65.powerschool.com/public)

**Free & Reduced Lunch Application and Info:** [www.district65.net/page/97](http://www.district65.net/page/97)

### Breakfast / Lunch Menu:

[www.district65.net/menu](http://www.district65.net/menu)

# Stay Connected!



3601 Church St.  
Evanston, IL 60203



Walker Elementary  
School PTA (Group)



[walkerwolverinespta.com](http://walkerwolverinespta.com)



[walkerptagroup@gmail.com](mailto:walkerptagroup@gmail.com)



Office: 847.859.8350

Child Care: 847.859.8357

Attendance Line: 847.859.8350,  
Option 1

<https://walker.district65.net/>



## School Pictures

School pictures are taken each year, during school hours, by a professional photographer. See [calendar](#) for dates.

## Yearbooks

The PTA provides yearbooks for all 5th grade students at the end of the school year. All others who would like to purchase a yearbook should visit [www.treering.com/validate](http://www.treering.com/validate) and enter Walker's Passcode: 101507041679653

Yearbooks are \$15 and must be ordered by May 9, 2025 to be delivered to students in class at the end of the school year. Late orders can be shipped to home for an additional fee. For any questions, please contact Erin Sacluti at [erinsacluti@gmail.com](mailto:erinsacluti@gmail.com) or Darlena Simmons at [darlena.simmons@gmail.com](mailto:darlena.simmons@gmail.com).



## Walker Spirit Wear

Order custom Walker spirit wear designs here: <https://1stplace.sale/30464>

## Required Materials

District 65 provides all required materials for class. Students need only bring a backpack, water bottle and lunch (if not having the lunch provided at school).

[walkerptagroup@gmail.com](mailto:walkerptagroup@gmail.com)

## Become a PTA Member!

Joining the PTA as a member allows you to vote on things happening in the PTA at Walker Elementary School such as the PTA budget and how we spend money at the school, the events we do and when/where they happen, and so much more!

All Walker families are encouraged to attend monthly PTA meetings in person or online and can be found on the [calendar](#). While feedback is always welcome, only members can vote. We need members' support in order to be as effective of an organization as possible.

Free memberships are available in the store. Visit: [bit.ly/3ACpvSX](https://bit.ly/3ACpvSX)

## VOLUNTEER!

Sign up to explore ways to support Walker with your time and talents.

Visit: [bit.ly/WalkerVolunteer](https://bit.ly/WalkerVolunteer)

## Passive Fundraisers

Sign up for these organizations that donate money to Walker as you shop for other things.

[www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)

<https://supporters.givebacks.com/how-it-works>



## Field Trips

All field trip chaperones must complete a background check and be fingerprinted. Please see <https://www.district65.net/community/volunteers/volunteer-handbook> for information on volunteering in the school, classroom, or on field trips and to complete the application to volunteer. For questions, email: [volunteers@district65.net](mailto:volunteers@district65.net).



## Statement Against Racism

As a PTA, we are charged with supporting the welfare of our youth, advocating for the laws that advance their education and safety, and engaging the public in united efforts to secure the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and social well-being of our entire community.

The Walker PTA mission is to create an environment where EVERY student, caregiver, and educator feels valued, safe and experiences a sense of belonging in our community.

Eradicating racism and white supremacy are essential to making our mission a lived reality. We are committed to cultivating an anti-racist school community that all children deserve.

## Lunch

At the start of each school day the homeroom teachers will take the lunch orders. Each student will tell his/her teacher if they brought a sack lunch or wish to order a school lunch. Walker School offers breakfast and lunch to all students. The cost for breakfast is \$2.25 and the cost for lunch is \$3.50. Extra milk may be purchased for \$0.60. Students can pay for meals daily or in advance, in which case the money will be placed into his/her account. Meal accounts can be setup online at [www.MySchoolBucks.com](http://www.MySchoolBucks.com) or students can bring in cash or check to school. Please make sure that payment is sent in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the child's name, the teacher's name/homeroom number and "Lunch Money" on it. Checks can be made out to "District 65 Nutrition Services". Pre-paid deposits should be given to the child's teacher or directly to Nutrition Services Staff. Free and reduced price meals are available. Applications for free and reduced meals must be submitted every school year and are available online. Please contact Nutrition Services with any additional questions at (847) 859-8130

## Lunch / Recess Periods



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

## Emergency Closing Information

In the event that school is cancelled due to inclement weather or another emergency situation or if a late start has been enacted, the district will communicate with staff and families through the following methods:



- Automated phone call and email
- Announcement on District 65 website ([www.district65.net](http://www.district65.net))
- Emergency Closing Center ([www.emergencyclosings.com](http://www.emergencyclosings.com))
- District 65 Facebook and Twitter pages
- Local newspapers, TV, and radio stations

Please ensure that the most current contact information is on file with the district. Any changes can be made via Power School (parent portal), email to [parents@district65.net](mailto:parents@district65.net), or call 847-859-8055 / 847-859-8056.

## School Age Child Care (SACC)

Before school care is available beginning at 7:00 am. Children remain in morning childcare until the school day begins. Students attending the before-school program will be offered a healthy breakfast to start their day.

After-school childcare services begin immediately following dismissal at 3:35pm. Children must be picked up no later than 6:00 pm. Students attending the afterschool program will be offered a healthy snack.

Space in the District 65 School Age Childcare (SACC) program is limited and availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. Per DCFS guidelines, there are several documents required to complete the annual childcare registration process. Applications must be completed each school year and are only considered complete when all documents have been received by the Childcare Office. For more information, please contact the Walker School SACC Site Coordinator, Clara Khabeer, at (847) 859-8357 or [khabeerc@district65.net](mailto:khabeerc@district65.net).



## **The Walker School Student Body Is Unique!**

Walker School is a community of nations. In past school years, more than 25 languages could be heard in the school halls. Students are encouraged to share their customs and cultures with their classmates. Cultural arts programs are presented highlighting the different homelands of our world.

### **PTA Equity Project**

PEP is a subcommittee of the PTA Council whose mission is to ensure students across the district have access to PTA resources through the PEP One Fund. All PTAs in D65 contribute to the PEP One Fund so everyone's year-long fundraising benefits all D65 students. One Fund equitably distributes PTA funds across the district so that students have access to PTA-led enrichments & community building opportunities, regardless of which school they attend. For more information, visit: [www.ptaequityproject.com](http://www.ptaequityproject.com)

### **District 65 Board Of Education**

Evanston/Skokie School District 65 is governed by a locally-elected, seven-member board. Correspondence may be sent to the School Board Secretary at 1500 McDaniel Ave., Evanston, IL 60201, via email to [schoolboard@district65.net](mailto:schoolboard@district65.net), or messages may be left for school board members with the School Board Secretary at (847) 859-8111.

## **Walker School**

### **Mission**

To foster an inclusive and equitable learning environment.

### **Vision**

We strengthen critical thinking and develop independent learners.

### **Core Values**

- We make decisions in the best interests of students.
- We are grateful to be a part of the Walker community.
- We are responsible for all students' learning and experiences.
- We communicate and collaborate.
- We are a diverse, inclusive community where students and families feel empowered to share their experiences and ideas.

### **Six Decades Of Learning!**

Walker School was constructed in 1961 and dedicated in the spring of 1962. The school is named after David E. Walker who came to District #76 (which encompassed the South end of Evanston) in 1918 as Assistant Superintendent to Mr. Nichols. In 1928 Nichols School was opened and Mr. Walker became the principal, while he was acting as Assistant Superintendent. He remained in that position until the two school districts were consolidated in 1950. At that time, after serving the district for 32 years, Mr. Walker retired.

## **Health Office**

The Health Office is located on the first floor near the main office. There is a full-time health clerk on duty during regular school hours. If a student becomes sick or injured, they will be sent to the health office. The health clerk will administer first aid of a minor nature. If after observation, the illness or injury appears to warrant contact of a parent, reasonable effort will be made to contact parents. Parents may be requested to come and pick up a student at that time. If there is an extreme emergency, paramedics will be called and the child will be taken to Skokie Hospital. If your child is complaining of not feeling well, please do not send them to school. Please keep them home for the duration of the illness. If your child will be absent, you must phone the health clerk on the attendance line. Extended absences require the completion of the Extended Absence Form, available in the Health Office. Emergency information is completed during school registration. During the school year, if changes are made in employment, telephone number, or alternate contacts, please call the main office (847-859-8350) or the health office (847-859-8352).





## DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES

These rules pertain to the hours of 8:50 am - 9:05 am and 3:15 pm - 3:45 pm. A map is included on the next page.

**Morning Drop Off:** Students may be dropped off starting at 8:50am. No student may be dropped off to the playground prior to 8:50 am as there is no adult supervision provided by the school. If your child arrives after 9:05am, they must come to the main office for a tardy pass. Parents are not permitted to walk their child to class.

**Afternoon Pick Up:** Students aged 5-8 must be handed to a designated guardian upon pick up on the K-2 playground. Students aged 9 and above do not need to be handed off to a guardian upon pick up. Pick up is at 3:35 pm or at 12:05pm on designated early dismissal days.

### Parking At and Around Walker

Parking is widely available in the neighborhood especially on Arcadia and Davis. Please see the corresponding map on the following page.

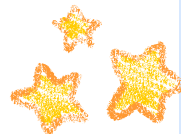
Parking is allowed in the West parking lot (by the 3-5 playground) but only in designated parking spaces. Do not park in the fire lane.

DO NOT park or leave car unattended in the drop-off/pick-up lane on Central Park Ave.

DO NOT park or leave car unattended in crosswalks or fire lanes.

**Double or triple parking will not be tolerated.** Drivers engaging in these behaviors are subject to being ticketed by the Skokie Police Department.

**NO PARKING** in the East parking lot (in front of the school) during pick-up and drop-off. This area is designated for buses only.



**School begins for all students at 9:05am. The first bell rings at 9:00am. Students are dismissed at 3:35pm.**



### Using the Drop-off/Pick-up Lanes

There are two designated drop-off/pick-up lanes:

1. The West side of Central Park Ave. South of Church in front of the K-2 playground; and
2. Curbside in the West parking lot in front of the 3-5 playground.

**There is absolutely no parking or leaving the car unattended in the drop-off/pick up lanes.**

### Transportation

The District 65 Transportation Department works alongside the school bus companies and families to provide safe and efficient service for students to and from school. The district provides free student transportation for elementary students who reside 1.5 miles or more from their attendance area school or reside where walking to school or to the bus stop would constitute a serious safety hazard.

Families are encouraged to call the District 65 Transportation Department directly with questions or concerns regarding bus stops, bus routes, or bus drivers.

Positive Connections (847) 492-0115

Brite Lift Transportation (224) 306-7409

Compass Transportation (773) 279-9110

District 65 Transportation (847) 859-8160

[transportation@district65.net](mailto:transportation@district65.net)

All student transportation routing information can now be accessed in the student/parent PowerSchool page, by clicking on the transportation tab.

