

Syosset Elementary school FAQ 2015-16

About Lunch

Q. How do I send in lunch and classroom snack?

A. lunch and classroom snack should be sent in two separate bags. They can be placed in either lunch boxes or brown paper bags. Many children bring a lunch box for lunch and a throw away brown bag for snack. Both should be labeled with your child's name.

Q. What time is lunch?

A. Lunch is staggered by grade. Kindergarten and First grade go to lunch at 11:25.

Q. What are the lunch options?

A. Syosset elementary schools do not have cafeterias. You can send lunch for your child every day or you can opt for any of the PTA sponsored lunches.

Q. What are the PTA sponsored lunches?

A. The PTA arranges to have food brought in for sale from local merchants. Lunch is served by volunteer parents.

Q. How much do the PTA lunches cost?

A. Lunches can be brought with money. Prices range from \$2 to \$5.

Q. What about water during the day?

A. Most schools have drinking fountains. Some classrooms may have a water fountain. For those who do not have a water fountain, it is recommended that you send in one or two water bottles, especially on warm days.

Q. My child has allergies, what do I do?

A. A current medical form should be on file with the school nurse. You should stop by or call the school nurse to discuss the specifics of your child. You should also alert the classroom teacher of your child's needs as snacks are given in the classroom for various celebrations. Depending on

the situation, the classroom teacher can let you know when these events are happening so you can send in a special snack for your child.

About Transportation

Q. What if my child misses the bus in the morning? How do I drop him off at school?

A. If you are dropping your child off before the start of the school day (9:15) you can park in the parking lot and walk them to the front door. If you drop off your child after 9:15, you must sign your child in at the main lobby. Please keep in mind cars are never allowed in the circle before 8:45 in the morning or after 3:00 in the afternoon.

Q. What if the bus doesn't come in the morning?

A. Do not call the school. Call the transportation company, Huntington Coach, directly at 631-271-8995. They can tell you what is happening with the bus. You can then choose to wait or drive your child to school yourself.

Q. What if I need to pick up my child early from school?

A. Send a note to the teacher stating the time your child will be picked up and by whom. At the stated time, come to the main lobby and your child will be paged to come meet you. You must sign your child out. The latest time you can request for early pickup is 2:50 pm. After that time, your child should be picked up as a walker at 3:15.

Q. What does it mean to be a 'walker' and how does that work?

A. A walker is a child who stays at school for the entire day but does not go home on the bus. If you need to pick your child up as a walker, send in a note to the teacher. The walkers are all released at 3:15 at a door out to the parking lot. Parents should park their cars and stand outside the door to meet their child.

Q. Who supervises dismissal at the walker door and what security provisions are in place to ensure safe pick-ups?

A. Specialist teachers are responsible to take the walkers outside. If after a certain amount of time, a student isn't picked up, the teacher will take the

child to the front office to call home. Someone waits with the child until they are picked up from the main lobby.

Q. What if I'm not home when the bus arrives in the afternoon?

A. Kindergarteners must be released to an adult. If you are not home to take the child off the bus, the bus driver will finish the route and come back to your house as the last stop. If you are still not there, your child will be taken back to school and you or your emergency contacts will be called and asked to pick your child up.

Q. What if my child doesn't come home on the bus? What should I do besides panic?

A. Contact the school first. If your child misses his/her bus, they are usually sent to the office. If they are not there, you need to contact the bus company. They will need to know your bus number.

About School

Q. Do I need to notify the school if my child is sick and won't be going to school?

A. Yes, you must call the school in the morning to report your child's absence.

Q. What is the Invention Convention/Science Fair? Can the younger children participate?

A. The Invention Convention/Science Fair is opened to children in all grades. They can choose to either invent something or conduct a science experiment with something that interests them. The school and parents have the opportunity to view all the inventions and experiments at the Fair. Information will come home in your child's backpack in late fall.

Q. What is Curriculum Night?

A. Curriculum night is when parents can go to school and see displays of what the children have been doing in all their classes.

Q. What is Project Beyond? What grade does it start and how are children selected for this advanced program?

A. Project Beyond is from grades 3 to 7. For more information, please contact your school principal.

Q. What is the SCOPE program? How much does it cost?

A. SCOPE provides a school-age child care program for children of parents residing in the District, kindergarten through sixth grade. Although housed in three elementary schools, all elementary schools and sixth grade middle school students are served. Parents pay tuition which covers the cost of operating the program. SCOPE offers child care from 7:15 a.m. to the start of the school day, and from 3:15 to 6:30 p.m. when school is in session. Families of currently registered SCOPE students may also avail themselves of child care service on elementary school half-days at an additional fee. Further information and registration materials are available from Josephine Giuffrida, the program director, at 364-5631. The director's office is located at Village Elementary School.

Q. In what grade can my child learn a musical instrument?

A. Musical instrument instructions start in third grade. Band instrument and chorus starts in fourth grade. You can rent equipment or buy your own. School will provide the necessary information.

Q. Are foreign languages taught in elementary school? If yes, what are they and how are they taught?

A. Introduction to foreign language and education starts in kindergarten. There are a few languages that follow a rotation among the different school.

Q. Is there a Multicultural Day celebration? Is this a school program or a PTA run program?

A. Each school has a Multicultural Day celebration that is sponsored by the PTA. All families are encouraged to participate and share their culture.

Q. What does the "Class Mother" do?

A. Class Mothers are selected at the beginning of the school year. They are chaperones for school trips and help coordinate class parties with our child's teacher.

About Teachers Communication

Q. Give me all the situations that require a note to the teacher.

A. Early pickup, going home as a walker, going home with another child on a different bus, going home with another child on the same bus, returning to school after illness. For all other situations...when in doubt, send a note!

Q. What's the best way to communicate with my child's teacher?

A. For routine issues, send in a note to your child's teachers via the Home Folder. It is best to place the note on top of the homework in the folder so it is easily seen by the teacher. For more important issues, place a phone call to your child's teacher either before school, during a special or after school. All Syosset teachers have email. Their email uses the initial of their first name then their last name followed by @syossetschool.com. For example, Kim Smith's email would be: ksmith@syossetschools.com

About PTA

Q. How do I send something to the PTA mailbox?

A. Just send an envelope in your child's backpack clearly labeled 'PTA Mailbox'. The teachers will see that it gets there that same day.

Q. When are PTA meetings?

A. The PTA meetings are planned for the entire year. See your Syosset District calendar, which was sent home in August, and note the dates. They are usually during the first week of each month, on a weeknight, at 8 pm. They generally last for one hour.

Q. How do I get involved in the PTA?

A. Volunteer for a committee! Fill out a PTA Committee form in the beginning of the year. Also throughout the year you will receive flyers sent home with your children asking for volunteers. Either respond to the flyer or be proactive and call a committee chairperson directly. Once the school directory is published, you will have a complete list of all committee chairs.

Q. What is Reflections? Can the younger children participate?

A. Reflections is a PTA sponsored themed contest for Art, Literature, Music and Photography. It is available to students in all grades. The competition

is grouped by grades K-2 and 3-5. Information is provided in late fall which will define this year's theme and all requirements. Winners of the school's contest participate in an awards ceremony and move on to Nassau County and possibly to state and national competitions.

Q. What is PARP?

A. PARP stands for Parents as Reading Partners. It is a two-week reading program which involves around a different theme each year. Activities are sent home to encourage parents and children reading together.

Q. Why should I join the PTA?

A. Only PTA members are allowed to participate in PTA events such as being a class parent on school trips. It is important for our children to see us involved in their school. To join the PTA, you need to fill out and submit a membership form and pay the membership fee. The membership fee goes toward funding PTA events and educational programs at your school. Your membership also makes you part of the world's largest advocacy group for children. Joining the PTA makes you a member of the New York State PTA and the National PTA.

Q. What is SEPTA?

A. Special Education Parent Teacher Association that serves Syosset School District's children with disabilities, as well as their families. It is a place for parents and teachers to exchange information on various programs, funding, ever-changing state and federal laws and to support each other on the many problems of adjustment, growth and development our members face. Membership is open to all.

About Parents Communication

Q. How do I get in touch with other parents?

A. The school directory list each child's name, address, phone #, bus # and parents' names. It is put together and paid for by the PTA and will be sent home in your child's backpack sometimes during the fall. You may receive a class list at the beginning of the year from your child's teacher. However, teachers are not permitted to list phone numbers on the class list. If you want to contact another parent before you have your directory, send in a note and ask your child's teacher to place it in the other child's folder to be sent home.

Others

Q. When does my child need to wear sneakers?

A. All students must wear sneakers for PE. Children should also wear sneakers if they want to use any of the playground apparatus.

Q. What is the Syosset Recreation Program?

A. During the winter months the Syosset Recreation Program offers art classes and sports classes after school. The classes run for 10 weeks during January, February and March and are held at school from 3:15 to 5:00 pm. The children are split by grades (K-2 and 3-5). Information regarding registration will come home in your child's backpack.