



THE DOUGLSTON SCHOOL
2016 National Blue Ribbon School
P. S. 98Q
40-20 235th Street
Douglaston, NY 11363
Phone 718.423.8535 Fax 718.423.8550
Kristy Chan, Ed.D. | Principal



Dear P. S. 98 The Douglaston School Parents/Guardians and Families,

The P. S. 98 Staff and I are excited to welcome our students to a new school year! HMH Into Reading and Writing is our core literacy curriculum. It is a curriculum based on standards and research in the essential elements of literacy. Teachers have access to award-winning, high interest texts that are culturally relevant and reflect our diverse world. Text topics build background knowledge across academic disciplines and accelerate reading growth. We will continue to utilize the workshop model with explicit modeling. Our other core curricula are enVisions Math, Amplify Science, Passport Social Studies, and Foundations and Heggerty for Word Study. For all instruction, best practices will be integrated from other curricula resources to provide quality instruction and educational experiences that will promote lifelong learning and future success.

Open communication and collaboration are the key to a successful school year. With this School Resource, I hope that it will provide useful information to you and improve communication between the school and home.

This document is not only for the parents but for the children as well. Please share pertinent information in this handbook that will promote your child's understanding of his or her responsibilities.

Thank you in advance for your careful attention to the information presented. By working together, we are ensuring a safe and nurturing learning environment for all.

Sincerely,

Kristy Chan, Ed.D.
Principal

(Please return the bottom portion of this letter on the next school day)

I have received and read the P. S. 98 School Resource 2026-2027. Appropriate portions of the handbook were shared with my child/children.

Parent's name: _____ Date: _____

Child's name: _____ Class: _____

P. S. 98

The Douglaston School

School Resource

2026-2027



"TODAY WE LEAD OUR STUDENTS. TOMORROW OUR STUDENTS WILL LEAD THE WORLD"

P. S. 98Q
The Douglaston School
40-20 235th Street
Douglaston, NY 11363
Phone 718-423-8535; Fax 718-423-8550
www.ps98q.org
Kristy Chan, Ed.D. | Principal

Table of Contents

Topic	Page
The Douglaston School Vision Statement	3
Diversity and Inclusion Policy	3
Arrival Procedures	4
School Drop Off	4
Dismissal Procedure	4
School Pick Up	5
Emergency/Storm School Closings	5
Breakfast Programs	6
Lunch	6
Visitors and Safer Access System	6
Door Alarms	6
Traffic Safety	6
P. S. 98 PTA	6
Parent Coordinator	7
School Leadership Team (SLT)	7
NYC Schools Account	7
P. S. 98 School Attendance Plan	8
Respectful School Environment	10
P. S. 98 Endeavors to Promote a Positive Climate	10
Communication Protocol	11
School Notices	11
Discipline	12
Reporting of Incidents	12
School Bus Safety Rules	12
Schedule of Disciplinary Action for School Bus Safety	13
Grading Policy for Kindergarten to Grade 5	13
Report Cards and Interim Progress Reports	15
Marking Periods and Report Card Distribution 2026-2027	15
Parent-Teacher Conference Schedule	16
Family Orientation	16
Telephone Calls	16
Cell Phones	16
Emergency Contact Cards (Blue Card)	17
School Nurse	17
Medication	18
Keeping a Healthy Environment	18
HIV/AIDS Education	18
Pediculosis (Head Lice)	19
Safety	19
Building Response Team (BRT)	19
NYS Next Generation Standards	20
Special Education	20
Homework Policy	20
Dress Policy	20
Birthday Celebration Guidelines	21
Educational Field Trips	21
P. S. 98 School Library	22
Curriculum	22
School Leadership	24
Special Events	25
P. S. 98Q After and Before School Programs	26
Helpful Websites and Information for Parents	26
2026-2027 P. S. 98Q School Year Calendar	28
Faculty and Staff Directory	29

The Douglaston School Vision Statement

P. S. 98 is a place where school and home come together to promote learning to meet standards of excellence. Our students will become self-disciplined, creative and independent learners. We believe every child will succeed in ways that reflect his or her own aptitudes and interests. We value student and community voice and collaboration. P. S. 98 encourages a strong partnership between school and home to support leadership, promote good citizenship, and build a strong sense of community.

School-wide Instructional Priority

P. S. 98 ensures high expectations and rigorous instruction for every student across interdisciplinary content. We implement inclusive curricula and assessments. Our curriculum includes diverse perspectives that reflect and affirm all students' identities, lived experiences, and cultures. We foster students to be independent lifelong learners. P. S. 98 develops and strengthens a welcoming and affirming school environment by fostering communication between school and home and attending to the social and emotional needs of all students.

Instructional Focus

Our instructional focus is to enhance students' ability to engage in meaningful, respectful, and effective conversations during classroom activities and discussions. Students will develop stronger discourse by applying standards-based skills and academic and content-specific vocabulary, leading to richer classroom discussions and a highly collaborative learning environment.

Social Emotional Learning Mission Statement

P. S. 98's goal is to provide evidence-based social and emotional learning (SEL) as part of our instruction. We believe in educating the whole child, equipping students for success in school and in life by fostering positive relationships, self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, and responsible decision-making. We strive to know our students well, collaborate with families and support SEL to build supportive relationships between students and between students and staff.

Diversity and Inclusion Policy

At P. S. 98, we strive to create a diverse and inclusive environment that values the experience, perspective, and contributions of all students, families and faculty. As a result, we seek to foster an inclusive environment where the individual differences among us are respected, understood, and recognized as a source of strength that enriches our school community.

[*Please note: All information is subject to change.*](#)



Arrival Procedures

Please note that no child may be left unsupervised on school grounds prior to 8:20 am.

- **School hours** are **8:20am** to **2:40pm** for grades Pre-K – 5. Dismissal begins between 2:30pm and 2:35pm.
- **Early Bus** students will be received by a school aide at **7:50am** and escorted to the cafeteria for breakfast.
- **Breakfast Program for Early Arrivals (7:50 – 8:10am)**
Students will be admitted into the building for the Breakfast Program for Early Arrivals **beginning at 7:50am** and they will go directly to the cafeteria. For this early arrival, students **must eat breakfast**. Students arriving after 8:10am, may choose to participate in Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC).
- **Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC) (8:20 – 8:40am)**
All students can get a Grab-and-Go breakfast upon entering the school after 8:10am to have breakfast in their classroom.
- **Arrivals**
At 8:20am, the remaining students may begin to arrive. Please note that **no child may be left unsupervised on school grounds prior to 8:20am.**
 - **Grades 1-5** arrivals will be in the track and field yard. For arrivals, kindly stand behind the yard gate until a staff member is present to welcome your children at 8:20am.
 - **Kindergarten** arrivals will be at Exit 2 (railroad side).
 - **Pre-K** arrivals will be at the Main Entrance (single line on the left side). Students will line up by the Main Entrance until they are greeted by their teacher.
- **First Day of School:**
 - On the first day of school, Grades 1-5 will line up in the track and field yard to meet their teachers (weather permitting).
 - Starting on the second day of school, Grades 1-5 will meet their teachers in the classroom (entrance through the track and field yard). Staff will be in the cafeteria and staircases to support arrivals.
 - *During inclement weather only for the first day of school, **Pre-K** and **Kindergarten** will assemble in the corridor by their classroom. Grades 1-5 will line up in the cafeteria.*

School Drop Off

Parents in cars that need to drop off students at the main entrance are requested to approach the main entrance from the north, **PULLING UP AS FAR AS POSSIBLE** to allow cars to line up. Students should always exit the car on the passenger side and parents are then to pull away quickly and safely to keep the steady flow of traffic. P. S. 98 is uniquely located next to the LIRR and our school opening hours coincide with morning train schedules. Accidents have occurred due to rushing cars that ignore the crossing guard and speed past parents who are trying to safely drop off their children. Parents are asked to follow the crossing guard's instructions and to use common courtesy and politeness. When dropping off at the playground, please exercise the same safety precautions.

Dismissal Procedures

To ensure a safe dismissal, please exit either through the playground or use the staircase leading up to 235th Street. Should you need to cross 235th Street, please cross at the crosswalk where our Crossing Guard is stationed. Model crossing the street safely for your children. Do **NOT** cross between vehicles which is unlawful and poses great danger for all. Be cautious when driving or

walking by school parking lots, as vehicles are frequently moving in and out.

Grades 1-5 students are dismissed in the large track and field playground. Please come a few minutes before 2:35 to ensure punctual pick-up.

Kindergarten is dismissed by the railroad side entrance on 235th Street.

Pre-K is dismissed at the main entrance.

Grade	Dismissal Time
Pre-K, Kindergarten, Grade 4 and 5	2:30-2:40pm
Grades 1, 2, and 3	2:35-2:40pm

School Pick-Up

Metered parking is extremely limited and much of the remainder of the street parking is either a NO PARKING zone or taken by LIRR commuters. As a result, parking at the school for pick up is often challenging. **PARKING IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL, IN THE BUS LOADING ZONE, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.** In doing so, you may run the risk of a parking ticket from the NYPD. It is suggested that you give yourself extra time to park when picking up your child/children.

Pets and scooters are not permitted on the school grounds (this includes the playgrounds located behind the school).

Please be prompt when dropping off and picking up your child.



Emergency/Storm School Closings

- A citywide policy on emergency school closing/storm closings has been established by the Office of the Chancellor – New York Department of Education.
- By **6:00 am**, the decision will usually be announced on the 311 Information Line.
- Department of Education web-site – <http://www.schools.nyc.gov> will provide information.
- Radio stations – WINS (1010 AM), WBLS (107.5 FM), WNYE (91.5 FM) will provide information.
- Television stations – Channel **2**, Channel **4**, Channel **5**, Channel **7**, Channel **11**, Channel 25 and Channel **1** will provide information.

When authorized school closings are in effect, all school trips, after school programs and community-based school programs are cancelled. Remote learning will be implemented unless otherwise indicated.

Breakfast Programs

- The **free** school breakfast program is open to all students. Students arriving between **7:50 and 8:10am** will participate in the early Breakfast Program.
- Students who attend the early Breakfast Program **must eat breakfast**. They will be supervised by a school aide in the cafeteria.
- Doors are open at **7:50 am** for **breakfast only**.
- Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC) is from **8:20-8:40 am** for students.



Lunch

- For **Free Lunch Information and Applications**, please visit <http://www.nyc.gov/accessnyc>.
- Students have the option of bringing their lunch or choose to have free hot lunch.
- Students who bring their lunch must have it with them when they arrive at school in the morning. Any child without a lunch will be provided with a school lunch.
- Teachers escort the students to the lunch or recess area.
- Students are **not** permitted to share food due to possible food allergies.
- **Make the school nurse and teachers aware if your child has food allergies.**

Visitors and Safer Access System

All visitors must enter and exit through the main doors of the school. Photo identification must be provided to the safety agent or personnel covering at the desk. Photos of ID are **not** acceptable forms of ID. If you do not present identification, you **will not be admitted** into the building. There are Safer Access Doors at the Main Entrance and the main cafeteria entrance. Once you ring the bell, please identify yourself and tell security your purpose for visiting. All visitors are given a name tag which must be worn during their visit and must be returned to the security desk upon exiting the building. Appointments need to be made in advance of your visit.

Door Alarms

Door alarms are installed on all exit doors except the main entrance doors. **No one may exit through any door except the Main Entrance. An alarm will sound off at all other exits.**

Traffic Safety

We are an **Idle-Free Zone** which means at no time may motorists leave their vehicles running or idling while in front of the school. The one-minute idling law is enforced with a maximum fine of \$2,000. This law is in place for the well-being of all of us. We love our children and so we ask that everyone be mindful of the following:

- Do not have children exit the car on the street side.
- Always cross at the crosswalk and **never between** cars!
- Do not make broken U-turns in front of the school.
- Do not park in front of the school; the space is reserved for school buses only.
- Do not double park.
- Passing a stopped school bus with signal lights flashing and stop sign extended is **ILLEGAL and DANGEROUS**.



P. S. 98 PTA

The P.S. 98 PTA provides support and resources for the benefit and educational growth of all children. If you are a parent or guardian of a P. S. 98 student or a P. S. 98 staff member, you are automatically a member of the PTA. The purpose of the PTA is to:

- Promote and develop a cooperative working relationship between parents and staff of P. S. 98.
- Develop parent leadership and build capacity for greater involvement. Foster and encourage parent participation on all levels.
- Provide opportunities and training for parents to participate in school governance and decision-making.

We want to hear from you! Please get in touch with the PTA at ps98pta@ps98pta.com.

Meetings- PTA meetings are usually scheduled on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7pm virtually. They are a great way to stay connected to the school. In-person meetings will be announced.

Emails- Please sign up for the PTA email list so that we can send you information about PTA related events, fundraisers, and community news. If you are currently not on the list, you can opt into the emails at <http://eepurl.com/hKYFN5> or visit the PTA page on the school website.

There are other helpful links you may join to get updates on NYCDOE schools:

- **Twitter:** @NYCSchools
- **Facebook:** New York City Department of Education NYC
- **Mobile updates:** text "nycschools" to 877-877

Parent Coordinator

The parent coordinator is responsible for encouraging and promoting active parent involvement in their children's education. The parent coordinator is an important point of contact for our parents. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Our Parent Coordinator, Ms. Christine Holle, is available during school hours and can be reached at (718) 423-8535 ext. 2532 or cholle@schools.nyc.gov. Ms. Holle will be offering parent workshops throughout the year. Please contact Ms. Holle for parent information, reading materials, planned events and other available resources.

School Leadership Team (SLT)

The School Leadership Team is composed of an equal number of faculty and parent members and is presided over by the Principal, PTA President and UFT Chapter Chair. Monthly meetings are held to discuss school items such as budget, policy, curriculum, and safety concerns. In September, at the first PTA meeting, the School Leadership Team (SLT) Kindergarten member is elected for the current academic year to ensure parent representation across the grades. School Leadership Team (SLT) meeting dates are agreed upon at the first scheduled meeting. The School Leadership Team (SLT) meetings are public, and all community members are invited to attend. The scheduled meetings are posted on the Parent Information Bulletin Board and announced in our monthly calendars. Should you have any questions, please contact Christine Holle, Parent Coordinator at (718) 423-8535 ext. 2532 or cholle@schools.nyc.gov.

NYC Schools Account

With a NYC Schools Account (NYCSA) you will be able to access key information about your child's progress in school, including attendance, report card grades, assessments, general student information, and academic schedule in one of ten languages on a computer, phone or tablet.

You can register for an account in person or online. To set up an account, you must be



your child's parent or legal guardian. If you have more than one child attending an NYC public school, you can link all of them to the same NYC Schools Account. You can register for a NYC Schools Account in two ways:

1. Use the NYC Schools Account Creation Code provided in the letter from your school.
2. Visit your child's school in person to receive a temporary password.

To register in person, please call to meet with our Parent Coordinator, Christine Holle. To set up an account, be sure to bring:

- **A valid photo ID:** Passport, Driver's license, State ID, or permit; or IDNYC.
- **A valid email address:** Register for a free email address using Gmail, Hotmail, or Yahoo.

P. S. 98 School Attendance Plan



Regular attendance is essential to ensure that our children are academically and socially successful. Our goal is to consistently increase our currently high percentage of attendance.

Daily Attendance Recording

Attendance is taken each morning by the classroom or specialty teacher by 9:00am. **Students are considered late when they arrive at 8:30am or later.** Families can monitor their child's attendance by visiting <https://www.schoolsaccount.nyc/>.

- **Parent/Guardian Communication and Support**
 - Staff members are available to communicate with parents, as needed. For non-English speaking parents where we do not have a staff member that can translate, we will utilize the services within the Translation Unit to assist.
 - A letter will be sent home to all students in the class in the event a student has been diagnosed with a communicable disease (mumps, chickenpox, etc.)
- **Parent/Guardian Communication Responsibility**
 - Any serious or contagious illness must be reported to the school nurse. Upon returning to school, children must bring in either a doctor's note or letter from a parent/guardian.
- **Chronic Student Absences and Lateness**
 - Students who were chronically absent or late in prior years will meet with the Parent Coordinator, District Attendance Teacher, and/or School Counselor. Concerns will be addressed. Parents/guardians will be reminded that **attendance has a direct impact on student learning and achievement**. If the parent presents a challenge or conflict that inhibits attendance and punctuality, our School Counselor or Attendance Teacher will offer support, problem solve, and/or provide a referral to an outside agency to further assist the family. Follow up will occur as needed.

Absence

Any child who is absent from school must present a written note signed by the parent or guardian immediately upon his/her return. The note must clearly indicate the reason for the absence and must be presented **within three school days** from the child's return to school.

The school will classify an absence for one of the following reasons:

- Sickness of child

- The passing of an immediate family member
- Religious observation
- Weather so inclement as to endanger the safety and well-being of the child
- Exceptionally urgent reasons
- Absences classified as "excused" will still show up on report cards as absences

Any absence that can be anticipated beforehand should be brought to the attention of the teacher well in advance of the absence. A doctor's note is required for any absence that exceeds three consecutive days. **A doctor's note is required if a student has crutches, a cast, etc. to ensure appropriate accommodations.** Students who are absent more than ten days from any school year may be considered for holdover. Special consideration will be given to those students who are seriously ill.

As per Chancellor's Regulation A-210, any student who misses the equivalent of two or more days per month or 20 or more days in the school year, is considered chronically absent and is referred to the School Counselor or Social Worker and Attendance Teacher who then discuss the absences with the Pupil Personnel Team (PPT).

Unexcused or Unlawful Absences

All absences for reasons other than those cited above will be considered as "unexcused." All "unexcused" absences for students under the age of seventeen are also recorded as "unlawful." When a child has been absent for more than 10 consecutive days, 15 aggregate days, or 8 days after a previous 407 has been opened, or when a student has been absent for 20 aggregate days over a four-month period, a 407 investigation is opened to identify the reason for the child's absence.

Lateness

- Any child that arrives at 8:30am or after is considered late and receives a late pass which is dated, and arrival time is recorded.
- The classroom teacher records this on their Working Class List and records the lateness on the official change of attendance form the following day.
- The classroom teacher must keep copies of all late passes in an envelope for the year.
- A letter will be sent to the parent/guardian of students who frequently arrive after 8:20am, the official start time of the school day. If a pattern of lateness continues, staff will outreach and ultimately the Attendance Teacher will be asked to intervene.

Improved Attendance – Incentives and Rewards

- 100% Attendance certificates will be awarded to students. Classes with 100% attendance will also receive an award certificate for best monthly attendance.



Respectful School Environment

Expectations and Responsibilities of Students:

- Treat other students with respect
- Treat all parents, teachers, staff, and visitors with respect
- Attend school regularly, arrive punctually and be prepared
- Take responsibility for your education
- Act in a manner that does not disrupt other students' education
- Make sure all homework is completed
- Show respect for school grounds and environment
- Celebrate the diversity of personalities, race, religion, and beliefs
- Be polite, courteous and respectful towards others regardless of age, race, creed, color, gender, religion, national origin, or disability
- Follow school rules regarding entering and leaving classrooms and the school building



Expectations and Responsibilities of Parents:

To set a good example for our students through one's actions including:

- Abiding by the NYCDOE's calendar and assuring your child's attendance when the school is scheduled to be open
- Providing a written absence note upon your child's return to school
- Supporting home/school communication by updating the Blue Emergency Card whenever necessary, in a timely manner
- Notifying the school nurse of any medical conditions or changes that may occur with your child
- Making sure your child arrives to school on time each day
- Making sure your child gets picked up on time
- Notify teachers in advance and in writing if your child will be going home in a different manner (i.e. not taking the school bus; being picked up by someone other than the usual person)
- Regularly attending scheduled PTA meetings
- Attending all scheduled Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Demonstrating respectful interactions with students, fellow parents, and school personnel
- Making sure your child is properly prepared for school each day
- Remaining involved in your child's education by overseeing homework, projects, etc.
- Reading to and with your child at home
- Maintaining active involvement with scheduled school activities (i.e. workshops, fundraisers, trips, school events, etc.)
- Respecting the school grounds and environment (i.e. by walking on the cement walkways)
- Properly supervise your child before arrivals and after dismissal. (i.e. Do not allow your child to walk on the ice or throw snow.)
- Keeping an open line of communication by contacting the teacher, school or parent coordinator when you have questions regarding your child or the school

P. S. 98 Endeavors to Promote a Positive Climate

We are dedicated to creating a safe school environment for our students. We value cooperative efforts between students, parents and teachers. Good interpersonal relations are based on sensitivity and trust. We believe in working as a team (students, parents, staff and community).

The school will:

- Maintain a positive emotional tone between youth and adult.
- Promote effective strategies to address any situation.
- Raise awareness about bullying and respect for all.
- Provide students with opportunities for restitution and forgiveness.
- Follow up to ensure we are maintaining a positive climate in our school.

**Communication Protocol**

The P. S. 98 School Leadership Team believes that communication between parents and staff is of the utmost importance. To enhance communication between these groups, the committee has developed the following protocol for addressing issues and concerns:

- If a student has a question or concern about a school-related issue, the parents should encourage the child to go directly to an appropriate staff member to help your child address the concern at the time of the issue.
- If a parent has a question or concern regarding curriculum or anything occurring in the classroom, the parent should first contact the classroom teacher for clarification and resolution.
- If a parent has a question or concern regarding a specialty class (i.e. technology, music, and physical education.), the parent should first contact the specialty class teacher (not the classroom teacher).
- If a teacher has a concern regarding a student, the teacher will contact the parent:
 - a) If a question remains or the issue is not resolved between the parent and teacher, the next step is to contact the principal.
 - b) If deemed necessary, the principal may choose to involve the appropriate school support staff member(s).
- Concerns regarding playground and/or bus incidents are to be directed first to the parent coordinator.
- If a concern remains unresolved, Principal Chan can be contacted at kchan5@schools.nyc.gov or 718-423-8535.

It is our hope that direct communication between parents and teachers will result in a satisfactory resolution of any issues, as well as the establishment of a good working relationship between home and school.

As a final note, we should all be mindful that everyone appreciates receiving positive reinforcement. A phone call or note to express acknowledgement of a successful resolution of a problem is always appreciated by both parent and school personnel.

School Notices

- **The return of school notices is expected on the next school day.** For example: school lunch forms, emergency contact cards, trip consent forms, special school notices that require a

return slip. **Please note that trip consent forms must be signed by a parent/guardian before a child may participate on any class trip.**

- Medical forms should be returned within 20 days. If more time is needed, please contact the school.
- **On a daily basis, check your child's homework folder** for notices. Place any notes and any additional correspondence for your child's teacher in the folder. The folder is checked daily by the teacher.

Discipline

It is expected that all students display appropriate behavior in school. This includes being respectful to schoolmates and school staff. The school will follow the current NYC Department of Education Discipline Code to handle discipline issues. A copy of the Discipline Code is available upon request. Inappropriate behavior will be handled accordingly. Please visit and access the following link: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/know-your-rights/discipline-code>

Reporting of Incidents

Safety is of the utmost importance. Students are encouraged to use appropriate language to express themselves to keep open lines of communication between their peers and staff. If a student cannot resolve a problem with another student peacefully, the student should walk away and seek the help of any adult who is present. If a student feels scared or threatened, he/she should speak immediately with a teacher, the principal, school aide, guidance counselor, social worker, school psychologist, parent coordinator, or school safety agent. Please refer to the 5 R's below.

The Five R's (Reporting an Investigation Procedure)



- Step 1:** Report (verbal and written Incident Report will be taken)
- Step 2:** Research (staff will investigate incident where appropriate)
- Step 3:** Results (determined to be substantiated or unsubstantiated)
- Step 4:** Response (appropriate notification per mandated protocol)
- Step 5:** Resolutions (interventions provided as necessary)

Every student is expected to listen and follow the instructions given by those charged with their care. Within our school, we support students in developing self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making as part of their social emotional learning.

School Bus Safety Rules

Please review these rules carefully and discuss them with your child to ensure a safe commute. **Only children assigned to a bus may ride the bus.**

Children should:

- Be courteous to residents, the bus driver, and other children.
- Be on time at the assigned bus stop.
- Board and exit the school bus only at assigned stops and in an orderly manner.
- Wait for the bus to come to a full stop before approaching the door of the bus.

- Use the handrail to help keep one's balance while going up the steps, one at a time.
- Ride only on your assigned school bus.
- Speak softly and sit quietly while on the bus.
- Keep arms and legs out of the aisle.
- Keep seatbelt on until bus comes to a halt at the school bus stop.
- Stay seated while the bus is in motion and stay in assigned seats if applicable.
- Do not talk to the driver while the bus is in motion unless it is an emergency.
- Wait for the bus driver's signal before crossing in front of the school bus. (Walk ten feet in front of the bus before crossing in front of the bus).
- Help keep the bus clean and sanitary.
- Use appropriate language.
- Keep all belongings, including musical instruments, on their laps.



Violations include:

- Inappropriate behavior, such as pushing, shoving, and fighting aboard the school bus.
- Use of inappropriate language.
- Taking possessions belonging to others.
- Throwing items out the bus windows.
- Reserving or saving seats.
- Vandalizing the school bus (vandals will be required to pay for damages).
- Eating or drinking on the school bus.
- Extending arms, or any other body part, out of the window.
- Failure to remain seated.
- Participating in any other unsafe or damaging activity.

Violations of the above rules will require disciplinary action. Please refer to the following [Schedule of Disciplinary Actions](#).

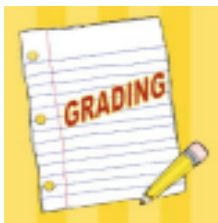
Schedule of Disciplinary Actions for School Bus Safety

We are concerned about the safety of all our children. Riders who violate the [School Bus Safety Rules](#) may have their school bus privileges suspended. Because we seek to ensure uniform treatment of our children, the following schedule of disciplinary actions will occur:

- **1st violation:** Parent notified of violation.
- **2nd violation:** Conference will be held with parent, student and school personnel.
- **3rd violation:** Parent notified; bus privileges suspended for up to three days.
- **4th violation:** Parent notified; bus privileges suspended for up to five days.

If a problem persists, suspension of bus privileges may occur for the remainder of the school year. The Office of Pupil Transportation (OPT) <http://www.opt-osfns.org/opt/> is available Monday-Friday from 5:30 am to 7:30 pm and via email at pupiltransportationteam@schools.nyc.gov.

Grading Policy for Kindergarten to Grade 5



Academic grades play an important role in the schooling process. When schools inform students and parents of how grades will be determined in a particular subject, they are defining the standards and instructional requirements for that subject. Report cards are available to parents via your NYCSA account. Report cards provide reinforcement for students and reflect progress and achievement of students' work at the grade level they are assigned.

Grades serve multiple functions--information and guidance. They serve to do the following:

- Give parents information about the student that will be useful in helping to promote and maintain desirable patterns of behavior and achievement.
- Help identify areas of special ability as a basis for realistic self-appraisal and for future educational planning.
- Serve an administrative function in providing data for use in educational planning and decision making.

P. S. 98 believes that grading has a purposeful and useful role in the schools. It is the school's desire to make the process both meaningful and helpful to teachers, students, and parents. The P. S. 98 grading policy follows New York City Department of Education policies and guidelines and reflects professional evaluation by teachers.

Grades are based on documentation, participation, conduct and work habits of each individual student. Parents are encouraged to talk to students about schoolwork and grades and contact teachers (first) and administrators (second) whenever there is a question regarding grading.

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- English Language Arts (Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, and Language)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education
- Arts (Music, Visual Arts)
- Technology
- English Language Learners (only for students requiring mandated ELL instruction)
- Academic and Personal Behaviors

For content areas (reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies) the report card grade is earned by accumulating the following:

60% = in class assessments

30% = class work, participation, group work and projects

10% = homework

Music and Art

50% = class assessment/teacher observation

45% = class work, projects, and group work

5% = homework

Technology

50% = culminating assessment and teacher observation

25% = work habits (follows directions, utilizes time wisely, group work)

25% = participation and effort

Physical Education

70% = participation and effort

20% = teamwork and cooperation

10% = preparedness (sneakers)

***P. S. 98Q Performance Level Alignment to Percentage**

*Report Card Grade	Descriptor
4	Exceeds Standards
3+	Consistently Meets Standards
3	Meets Standards
2+	Approaching Standards
2	Partially Meets Standards
1	Does Not Yet Meet Standards

Report Cards and Interim Progress Reports

Report cards are issued along with interim progress reports to inform parents of their child's academic and social progress. Please refer to the attached calendar for specific dates. The report card is the official communication by the NYCDOE. We are currently using a system known as STARS. It is an online reporting system that teachers access to record student grades and comments. Report cards are released to parents on the NYCSA (<https://www.schoolsaccount.nyc/>) Portal. Data Reports and teacher communications will notify parents of concerns regarding academic and behavioral performance. It is important that all report cards and reports are reviewed by parents. The report card and interim report indicators reflect the expectations of the NYS Standards and the NYCDOE's College and Career Readiness benchmarks.

The following marks may be used in instances where grades can't be awarded:

- **NS** - student has not attended school for enough days to determine a grade
- **NL** - new/recent admit; student recently admitted to the school and has not been present long enough to determine a grade

Marking Periods and Report Card Distribution 2026-2027

Marking Period	Start and End Date	Report Card Distribution
1	TBD	TBD
2	TBD	TBD
3	TBD	TBD

Parent-Teacher Conference Schedule

To support our students academically, in and out of school, the NYCDOE has scheduled dates for the administration, faculty and families to come together to share our children's learning and work. Appointments will be scheduled for each student's parents. Students are **dismissed between 11:30-11:40am** on these dates. There will be both afternoon and evening conferences on **Thursday, November 5th** (Fall) and Wednesday, **March 3rd** (Spring) from **12:40-2:40pm and 4:40-7:40pm**.

Parents will receive notification and be asked to indicate their preference of an afternoon or evening appointment. The conference is usually 10 minutes in duration due to the overall time constraints for these conferences. If more time is needed, the parent may request another appointment based on the teacher's schedule and availability during school hours.



Family Orientation

During this time, you will have the opportunity to meet your child's teachers and learn about exciting and rigorous educational programs at P. S. 98. This will also provide you with an opportunity to learn class expectations and how you can support your child's education at home. Creating a strong home-school connection is essential to driving student success. Your child's teacher will email you regarding a date and time.

Telephone Calls

- Phone calls are never transferred to students. If there is an emergency, relay the information to school personnel who will, in turn, inform the student.
- Students are only allowed to use office phones when it is an emergency.
- Calls from parents/guardians will not be transferred to teachers during instructional time. A message from the caller will be taken and the teacher will return the call.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Under the updated policy, [Chancellor's Regulation A-413](#), students are not permitted to use personal internet-enabled electronic devices during the school day. This includes devices such as cell phones, laptops, tablets, and portable music and entertainment systems.

- 1) Personal devices may not be turned on or used during school hours while on school property.
- 2) **These devices must be kept in a cellphone storage pouch.**

Confiscation and return of cell phones:

Cell phones will be confiscated if the above procedures are not honored

- 1) First incident there is a warning.
- 2) Second incident the phone is confiscated, and the parent is contacted, and the phone is returned to the student at the end of the day.
- 3) Third incident the phone is confiscated, and the phone will only be returned to the parent.

4) Fourth incident is the revocation of privilege to bring the phone to school.

Smart Watches and other Smart Devices are subject to the same conditions as cell phones.



Emergency Contact Cards (Blue Card)

Parents are required to complete the requested information on the blue emergency contact card. Make sure to list at least three (3) emergency contact numbers. The contacts are to be available to respond to an emergency in a timely manner. The contacts may include parents, neighbors, relatives or friends who can respond to the school's call immediately.

- List all health/medical problems including food allergies.
- Provide at least three (3) emergency telephone and/or cell phone numbers of the persons who can be reached if the school cannot reach the parent.
- It is of the utmost importance that the parent immediately update any changes, such as contact persons or telephone numbers that may occur during the school year. You may request a new emergency card or simply write a letter indicating the changes to be made on the currently held emergency card on file. Please note we cannot honor change requests via telephone as all requests must be in writing.

When completing the emergency card please note the following:

- Please write all information neatly and clearly.
- List as many available people who the school can contact in the event of an emergency.
- Anyone who picks up your child MUST HAVE PHOTO ID and be listed on the BLUE CARD.
- If your address changes you must provide proof of your new residence with two of the following items: gas or electrical bill within the prior sixty days; a lease agreement; deed or mortgage statement; current property tax from residence; water bill from the residence; official payroll documentation from an employer issued within the last sixty days; if renting, parent must present a notarized affidavit (attachment 3 – Chancellor Regulation A-101).
- If the caregiver/babysitter does not speak English, please provide a contact name and telephone number of someone who speaks English that we can contact. List the language that the caregiver/babysitter does speak, and all attempts will be made to find a translator.
- Children will be released ONLY to persons listed on the blue card.
- If there is anyone to whom your child CANNOT be released, the school must be notified of this in writing, and it must be accompanied by a copy of your court ordered papers.

School Nurse

A NYCDOE school nurse is assigned to our school full-time. She is responsible for reviewing medical records, alerting and training pertinent personnel to the specific health needs of identified students, and addressing any physical complaints raised by a student. We follow the **HIPAA Law** which means that student medical information is kept confidential and cannot be disclosed to the teachers, staff

or principal. The nurse will contact a parent, by phone or note, if a child has come to her office with a complaint of illness or injury. In certain cases, the nurse will make follow-up calls. Our school nurse is **Nurse Damaris Beattie.**

Medication

The school is prohibited from providing or administering any medication, such as aspirin, to any student. Students needing medications, such as antibiotics for colds, earaches and sore throats are to take them at home. A parent is always welcome to administer these medications if it must be administered during the school day. Children should never carry medication. The exception, to the aforementioned, is for those students who have an approved 504 medical plan. Those medications will be secured and dispensed by our school nurse. Please feel free to contact our school nurse for further information about the 504 Medical Plan.

Keeping a Healthy Environment

Everyone's cooperation is needed to keep all our children healthy.

- It is important to notify the school nurse if your child has a chronic health condition.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. When a tissue is not handy, sneeze or cough into the bend of your arm.
- Although colds are not excludable, please be considerate of your child and the others in his/her class.
- Children coughing or sleeping continuously should stay home.
- Any child with fever, sore throat and cough should stay home until the child is well and fever free for at least 24 hours. *
- If your child has pink eye, keep your child at home while signs of the infection are present.
- If your child vomits in school, they will be sent home.

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/health-and-wellness/staying-healthy>

* Please adhere to all current DOE COVID and health guidelines.



HIV/AIDS Education

The DOE mandates that HIV/AIDS education be provided for all students in grades K-12. The mandate states that instruction must be age appropriate and address the nature of the disease, the methods of transmission and methods of prevention. Lessons focus on developing an understanding of communicable diseases, ways to live a healthy life, and how to identify community resources that help enhance the quality of life. Parents have the right to opt their child out of participating in the lessons dealing with methods of prevention. A notice with the schedule of lessons will be given to parents in advance. More information will be provided in a letter to families. More information on the series of lessons can be found here: <https://www.weteachnyc.org/resources/collection/growing-up-and-staying-safe-new-york-city-k-12-hiv-education-curriculum/>.

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Lice are passed from person to person by direct contact or by sharing clothing with lice on them. Head lice cause itching commonly at the back of the head and neck or behind the ears. There are many effective creams and shampoos available over the counter or by prescription from your doctor.

NYC schools have a “no head lice” policy which means that any child who has live lice in their hair or scalp is not allowed to attend school until they have received treatment and are lice free.

Treatment should also include objects such as: bedding, stuffed animals, car seats, chairs and couches. Following treatment, a child will be allowed back in school if the child's hair is free of lice upon re-inspection by the school nurse.

Parents are asked to be proactive by diligently checking their child's/children's heads daily. Children can get lice more than one time. Be mindful that sometimes treatments do not work the first time. It is suggested that boy's hair be kept short and girls' hairstyles be non- free flowing styles. Remind your child/children to refrain from playing with their classmates' hair and not to exchange hats, headbands, combs or hairbrushes. If you find lice or nits in your child's head, kindly advise the school nurse immediately.

Safety

The NYCDOE has a precise protocol to ensure that all constituents are prepared in the case of an emergency. Evacuation and Lockdown Drills are conducted throughout the year to provide students and staff with an opportunity to practice established safety response procedures.

Building Response Team (BRT)

Throughout the year, selected staff participate in a number of safety meetings and conduct drills for emergency preparedness. There are specific procedures for evacuations, lockdowns and shelter-ins.

- **Evacuate** - specific procedures for leaving the building in the event of fire, smoke, flood, etc.
- **Lockdown** - specific procedures in the event of an intrusion.
- **Shelter-in** - specific procedures in the event there is a threat outside of the building.
- **Lock and Hold** - specific procedures in the event there is a condition inside the school building, and the immediate need to address the condition requires staff, students, and visitors to remain in place and conduct business as usual.

Students are instructed in all four procedures. We ask that parents emphasize with their child the importance of listening and following instructions the first time they are given.



NYS Next Generation Standards

The NYS Next Generation Learning Standards has made several important changes to past standards. These changes are called shifts. In **ELA**, reading will have more of a balance between fiction and informational texts than prior years. In addition, the text is more complex and requires students to use evidence gathered from the text or multiple texts to support their thoughts and opinions. The students are also learning how to write based on what they have read and provide text-based evidence. The academic vocabulary in reading and writing has also increased. In **Mathematics**, students will develop mathematical fluency, understanding, and application. Students will spend time practicing and applying math computations, understanding math content, and be asked to explain and justify their answer. The students will also use math in real-world situations. To view the complete standards and how parents can support learning at home go to <http://www.engageny.org>. Critical thinking and independence are fostered in all subjects.

Special Education

A Shared Path to Success means that all students have access to a rigorous curriculum through the creation of an inclusive learning environment. The law and all available research tell us that students with disabilities must be educated with their non-disabled peers to the greatest extent possible. Students with and without disabilities experience greater success when educated together. We are required to:

- Ensure students have access to our community school, education and services in the appropriate least restrictive environment with high quality instruction aligned to the NYS Next Generation Learning Standards.
- We are expected to develop and implement a quality IEP (Individual Educational Plan) that sets ambitious goals and provides appropriate services and support throughout the school day.
- Provide behavioral supports that foster positive school and classroom communities and enable students to achieve at high levels.
- Develop and implement comprehensive transition plans and services that prepare students for independent living, careers and college.

Homework Policy

Homework has a multi-purpose task. It develops independent study habits, reinforces knowledge, and enriches classroom instruction. Homework may include:

- A daily reading or writing assignment which may be related to the content area
- Independent reading selections
- Daily math assignments
- Online instruction

Please also note:

- Time spent on homework will be about (1) hour for elementary grades. It will be less for kindergarten.
- Three or more incomplete homework marks will negatively impact their grades for the marking period.

Dress Policy

- Students are to wear closed shoes. Sneakers are the safest form of footwear to be worn in school, as they protect the toes and feet from injury. Open-toed, open-backed shoes, Crocs,

- and clogs are not safe footwear. Also, sneakers with heels, wheels, and taps are not safe.
- Socks are recommended to help absorb perspiration and minimize skin irritation.
- Students must wear clothing that provides full coverage of torso, undergarments, and private body parts. The school prohibits any see-through garments of any kind.
- Long clothing that touches the floor may be a trip hazard and should not be worn.
- Hats, hoods, bandanas, sunglasses and scarves are not worn indoors except for headwear worn for religious observance.
- No oversized jewelry or chains are to be worn.
- For safety reasons, on days when your child is scheduled for physical education, they are discouraged from wearing any jewelry. **They MUST wear sneakers.**

Birthday Celebration Guidelines

Every child's birthday is a special day and provides reason for celebration. However, our main priorities are education and safety, therefore please note the following:

- Parents are to make arrangements with the classroom teacher at least 5 days prior to the date of the celebration.
- Our class celebrations are low-key. We suggest providing the class with individually wrapped cakes along with napkins, paper plates, other paper goods, and individual drink boxes. Party bags, balloons, ice cream, candles, videotaping, etc. are not permitted. **Make sure to share food ingredients with the teacher to ensure consideration to students with allergies.**
- The celebration will take place for approximately 10-15 minutes.
- The quantity of treats is to be limited to the number of students and teachers in the class. All extra items will be discarded according to our recycling plan.
- If you request the classroom teacher(s) to forward home birthday invitations on your behalf, please know that all students are to receive an invitation.
- Let your child's teacher know if you would prefer to send your child in with their own special snack if you do not want them to share the snacks provided.

Educational Field Trips



Educational field trips are planned by the classroom teacher and are considered to be curriculum enrichment activities. Please note the following:

- Students are accompanied by staff members during the trip, including while traveling from the departure site to the destination site and from the destination site to the return site.
- Each student is expected to behave responsibly and to follow the school's discipline code and policies.
- The parent is responsible for the actions of their child and releases the school from all claims and liabilities that arise in connection with the trip, except if due to the negligence of school officials.
- All parents must sign and return a trip consent form giving permission for their child to attend the trip. No child will be taken on a trip without a signed consent form. If a parent has a trip

concern, please communicate the concern with the classroom teacher to resolve.

- Parents' signed permission confirms that the child will behave responsibly, is medically fit and able to participate in all activities as described in the trip consent form.
- If the parent believes that it is necessary to limit the child's activity to a great extent, the school may not be able to accommodate the child on the trip and will inform the parent of the decision based upon receipt of the trip consent form.
- In the event of an injury or illness, the staff member(s) in charge of the trip may act on the parent's behalf and at the parent's expense in obtaining medical treatment for the child.
- Students who violate the school's discipline code may be excluded by the school from participating in a trip.

P. S. 98 School Library



Thank you to our PTA! Our upgraded state of the art library media center provides students with access to information and resources through our growing collection of books, magazines, and technology in a fresh, colorful, inviting classroom environment that promotes student learning and motivates our young readers. Our students visit the library on a regular basis to borrow books and other materials to use at home and in the classroom. Students will be able to understand how to use the library for their enjoyment and learning. The library media center will be used for students to research topics being studied in their classrooms with the use of our collection, as well as age-appropriate databases on their computers. Our students will celebrate and learn more about a variety of authors, books, and collections to become comprehensive readers. In an effort to maintain our book inventory and availability, a fee may be imposed for books that are damaged or are not returned by the end of the school year.

Curriculum

HMH Into Reading

HMH Into Reading is a curriculum based on standards and research in the essential elements of literacy. Teachers will have access to more award-winning, high interest texts that are culturally relevant and reflect our diverse world. Text topics will build background knowledge across academic disciplines and accelerate reading growth. We will continue to utilize the workshop model and best practices from other curricula resources to provide quality literacy instruction and educational experiences that will promote lifelong learning and future success.

enVisions Math

A nationally recognized and effective standards-based math series that focuses on deep conceptual math understanding aided by visual models, student-centered projects, problem based learning, and personalized learning. Math routines are used to promote rigorous student discourse.

Amplify Science

Amplify Science is a science curriculum that blends hands-on investigations, literacy-rich activities, and

interactive digital tools to empower students to think, read, write, and debate like real scientists and engineers. Content is based on Science Standards and the Science Scope and Sequence.

Passport Social Studies

NYCDOE Passport Social Studies is a comprehensive instructional curriculum that integrates the Next Generation Learning Standards and the New York State Social Studies Framework to prepare students for a global society. This program challenges students to think like historians and encourages them to raise questions, think critically, consider many perspectives, and gather evidence in support of their interpretations through the practice of chronological processing, decision-making, and historical research and analysis. Students also engage in community action projects as they incorporate the **Civics for All** curriculum. P. S. 98 also partners with the **NY Historical Society** for additional enriching social studies instruction.

Foundations

Wilson Foundations is a multisensory, structured language program that delivers explicit word study instruction in K-3 classrooms. Materials and strategies are research based and makes learning to read fun while teaching comprehensive reading, spelling, vocabulary, phonics, handwriting, and other necessary foundational skills that lay the groundwork for lifelong literacy.

Heggerty

The Heggerty Phonemic Awareness curriculum provides daily supplemental phonemic awareness instruction focusing on a variety of phonemic awareness skills and additional activities to further develop letter and sound recognition and language awareness.

Book of the Month

Our Book of the Month is selected to remind the community of the values and ideals we embrace. Our Book of the Month Team design grade appropriate higher order thinking questions to promote student thinking, create opportunities to utilize graphic organizers and increase academic vocabulary. The family community also receives an information guide on the book with questions that can be asked at home to further the conversation, the learning and the understanding for each of our Book of the Month.

Bucket Fillers Program

The Bucket Fillers Program is a character development program that encourages students to demonstrate positive behavior and fill others' buckets such as by sharing complimenting words, demonstrating respectful behavior, and helping someone without being asked. Each month, we recognize one child from each class that has demonstrated Bucket Filler qualities. Teachers share specific examples of the student's behavior and awards the student with a certificate. You can access the read aloud of *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOJy8-OC0iU>

Computer Science and Technology

Every 21st Century student needs the opportunity to learn computer science. The basic programming will help to nurture creativity, problem-solving skills and prepare students for future career and opportunities. Our Technology teacher utilizes the curriculum developed by Code.org. By the end of each course, even our youngest students will be able to create interactive games or stories that they can share with anyone. The lessons are aligned to CSTA Computer Science Standards, ISTE standards and reinforces concepts and skills taught in other subject areas by integrating NYS Next Generation Learning Standards State Standards, and Science standards.

Music

Through music appreciation and instruction, students will explore, create, replicate, observe and perform music. Students will build their technical and expressive skills, develop their artistry and a unique personal voice in music, and experience the power of music to communicate. They will become music literate and connect music with other disciplines.

Physical Education

Physical Education teaches participation in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity. In our Physical Education classes, students learn to work as a team, develop healthy personal fitness habits, and set fitness goals now and throughout their lives.

Move to Improve

Move to Improve is a classroom based physical activity program designed to increase physical activity among students in Elementary School. Once a week the school participates in thirty minutes of physical fitness. Move to Improve is part of the required weekly Physical Education instruction.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics (STEAM)

STEAM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) comes to life through hands-on experiences that spark curiosity and creativity in students. Using tools like LEGO robotics, basic circuits, 3D printing, drones, virtual reality, coding, and more, students learn to solve real-world problems while developing critical thinking, collaboration, and innovation skills. These engaging technologies help children explore complex concepts in a fun, interactive way to prepare them for the future by building both technical knowledge and confidence in their ability to create, collaborate, and lead.

Visual Art

The Art program is possible because of the PTA. Our Art teacher will be providing Art education for grades Kindergarten to 5. Our students will have the opportunity to work with a variety of media as they are introduced to a wide range of concepts, styles, artists and techniques. This course is designed to help our students develop a deep appreciation of art, enhance their craft, understand different artist styles and cultures through art, and better understand and express themselves in the process.



School Leadership

School Ambassadors

The Ambassadors' Club is a teacher and Parent Coordinator-led student volunteer group that works together to decide on and support service projects that benefit the local community and/or society. The organizations adopted by the club are researched, visited, and promoted within the school to raise needed goods or funds that support the ongoing work of the organization.

Student Council

The Student Council is a student-run government consisting of elected officers from grades 4 and 5 and class representatives from each class in grades 2 through 5. The council meets to discuss and plan ways to improve the school community. The Student Council is advised by two teachers who arrange meetings regularly and help students learn how to function as a real governing body.

Special Events

Character Day/Charity Walk

During the month of October, we celebrate literature in a unique way. On the last school day in October, the entire school community will dress as a character from an authentic piece of literature, a positive historical figure, and more! In the past, we were delighted to meet Winnie the Pooh, Ferdinand, Ira, Harry Potter, the Hungry Caterpillar, Amazing Grace, and the list goes on! Dressed in their costumes, students participate in the Sunrise Charity Walk around the Douglaston neighborhood.

Career Day

Career Day enables parents to share with our students how and why their career was chosen and how success is the result of persistence, diligence, and commitment. In having a variety of careers presented, the students are exposed to a world of possibilities. Please volunteer to share your career journey and highlights.

World Read Aloud Day

We embrace and encourage our students to read, read, and read some more! Family members are invited to lead a read aloud for their child's class on World Read Aloud Day. This is a great opportunity to bridge reading at home and in school. It gives family members an opportunity to partake in a class learning experience, share family culture, and foster the love of reading to the whole class!

Field Day

Our annual Field Day event culminates a fun filled year of running, jumping, throwing, kicking, and working collaboratively toward a fitness goal. Our parents are a huge part of the success of this wonderful day and the children look forward to a day filled with fun and challenges.



World's Fair Celebration

P. S. 98 celebrates different cultures, races, and religions. World Heritage Celebration is a long-standing tradition for understanding, sharing and appreciating our differences with pride and joy. Our World Heritage Celebration Committee is comprised of staff and parents collaborating to plan exciting activities and events.

Cultural Celebrations

Throughout the year, a different country in every continent is chosen to highlight and celebrate their unique cultures and traditions. Connections are made to celebrate prominent Americans of diverse backgrounds. Please let your child's teacher know if you would like to contribute to these activities by sharing a part of your culture with the class.

Talent Show

P. S. 98 has talent! Students show off their dancing, singing, comedy, martial arts skills, music skills, and so much more! It is a fun event where students get to share their unique and special talents with the whole school!



After and Before School Programs

CASA Grant Programs
Chorus
Make Your Move Chess
Test Sophistication
Basketball Clinic
Piano Club
Theater
PTA Enrichment Programs

Helpful Websites and Information for Parents

P. S. 98 The Douglaston School Website

<https://www.ps98q.org>

NYC Department of Education Homepage

<http://schools.nyc.gov>

School Year Calendar and Schedule

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/calendar>

Office of Pupil Transportation

<http://www.opt-osfns.org/opt/>

Free Lunch Information and Applications

<http://www.nyc.gov/accessnyc>

Chancellor's Regulations

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/policies/chancellors-regulations>

NYC Schools Account (NYCSA)

<https://www.schoolsaccount.nyc/>

School Meals

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/food/school-meals>

DOE Messages for Families

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/messages-for-families>

District 26

<https://sites.google.com/schools.nyc.gov/district26-org/parents-families>

District 26 Family Support Coordinator – Sign-up for e-blasts and useful information

Kimberly D'Angelo kdangelo4@schools.nyc.gov

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) U.S. Department of Education

<https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/laws-preschool-grade-12-education/every-student-succeeds-act-essa>

Next Generation Learning Standards

www.nysed.gov/next-generation-learning-standards

P. S. 98 SCHOOL YEAR 2026-2027 CALENDAR (subject to change)	
DATE	EVENT
September 10	First day for all students Grades Pre-K, K, 4 & 5 = 8:20-2:30-2:40pm/Grades 1,2 & 3 = 8:20-2:35-2:40 pm
September 21	Yom Kippur: School Closed
September 30	Evening Parent Teacher Conference Orientation [4:00-6:00pm] In person
October 12	Italian Heritage/Indigenous People's Day: School Closed
November 3	Election Day – Remote learning day
November 5	Early student dismissal = 11:30-11:40am; (No After School Program) Parent-Teacher Conferences = 12:40-2:40pm and 4:40-7:40pm
November 11	Veterans Day: School Closed
TBD	End of first marking period
November 26-27	Thanksgiving Recess: School Closed
TBD	First report card released via NYCSA
Dec. 24- Jan. 1	Winter Recess (Return Monday, January 4)
January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: School Closed
February 15-19	Mid-Winter Recess (Return Monday, February 22)
TBD	End of second marking period
March 3	Early student dismissal = 11:30-11:40am; (No After School Program) Parent-Teacher Conferences = 12:40-2:40pm and 4:40-7:40pm
TBD	Second report card released via NYCSA
March 9	Eid al-Fitr: School Closed
March 26	Good Friday – School Closed
April 22-30	Spring Recess (Return Monday, May 3)
TBD	NYS Computer Based Testing - ELA Grades 3-5
TBD	NYS Computer Based Testing - Math Grades 3-5
TBD	NYS Computer Based Testing – Science Grade 5
May 17	School Closed – Eid al-Adha
May 31	Memorial Day: School Closed
TBD	End of Third Official Marking Period
June 8	Full Clerical Day (Non-Attendance Day for ALL Students)
June 10	Anniversary Day/Chancellor's Conference Day: School Closed
June 28	Last Day for ALL students Third Official Report Card available via NYCSA

Faculty and Staff Directory

Kristy Chan	Principal	kchan5@schools.nyc.gov
Melanie Mercado	Secretary	mmercado4@schools.nyc.gov
Bryan Carpentieri	Music teacher	bcarpentieri2@schools.nyc.gov
Jennifer Barongi	Classroom teacher	jbarongi@schools.nyc.gov
Patricia Bogart	Paraprofessional	pboart3@schools.nyc.gov
Becky Camhi	Classroom teacher	bcamhi2@schools.nyc.gov
Tara Carroll	Classroom teacher	tcarroll3@schools.nyc.gov
Diana Cassidy	Classroom teacher	dcassidy4@schools.nyc.gov
Charlene D'Elia	Paraprofessional	cdelia2@schools.nyc.gov
Victoria DeVine	Art Teacher	vdevine2@schools.nyc.gov
Fraya Eisenberg	Classroom teacher	feisenberg@schools.nyc.gov
Ashley Fabiani	Classroom teacher	afabiani@schools.nyc.gov
Emine Fejzullaj	Classroom teacher	efejzullaj@schools.nyc.gov
Samantha Forte	Classroom teacher	sforte3@schools.nyc.gov
Paul Grossman	Classroom teacher	pgrossman@schools.nyc.gov
Careen Hanft	Paraprofessional	chanft@schools.nyc.gov
Ashley Healy	Classroom teacher	ahealy2@schools.nyc.gov
Christine Herrera	Classroom teacher	cherrera9@schools.nyc.gov
Erika Katsigeras	Paraprofessional	ekatsigeras@schools.nyc.gov
Pamela Kelly	Classroom teacher	pkelly3@schools.nyc.gov
Shannon McGill	Classroom teacher	smcgill6@schools.nyc.gov
Emma Mei	Technology teacher	emei@schools.nyc.gov
Erin Moran	Classroom teacher	emoran13@schools.nyc.gov
Lynn Moran	Paraprofessional	lmoran7@schools.nyc.gov
Tina Perlegis	Paraprofessional	tperlegis@schools.nyc.gov
MaryAnn Petrou	Paraprofessional	mpetrou@schools.nyc.gov
Luz Pinto	Paraprofessional	lpinto52@schools.nyc.gov
Kaylee Rodrigues	Paraprofessional	krrodriguez148@schools.nyc.gov
Kristin Roma	Classroom teacher	kroma@schools.nyc.gov
Kenneth Sciabarassi	Physical Education teacher	ksciabarassi@schools.nyc.gov
Brooke Seligson	Classroom teacher	bseligson@schools.nyc.gov
Rachel Sheridan	Classroom teacher	rsheridan@schools.nyc.gov
Michael Shatinsky	ELL Teacher	mshatinsky@schools.nyc.gov
Andrea Tulimieri	Pre-K teacher	atulimieri2@schools.nyc.gov
Patricia Whitlock	Classroom teacher	pwhitlock@schools.nyc.gov
School Safety Agent – Kamala Johnson		(718) 423- 8535 (ext. 1000)
School Nurse - Damaris Beattie		(718) 423-8535 (ext. 1514)
Parent Coordinator – Christine Holle		cholle@schools.nyc.gov
School Aides		(718) 423-8535 (ext. 1031, 1032, 1033)
Angela Amato (ext. 1033)		aamato8@schools.nyc.gov
Galina Gonera (ext. 1034)		ggonera@schools.nyc.gov
Maria Marotta (ext. 1032)		mariamarotta@schools.nyc.gov
School Assessment Team (SAT)		(718) 423-8552 (ext. 1101)
Andrea Giglio, School Social Worker		agiglio3@schools.nyc.gov
Fotini Kalabakas, School Counselor		fkalabakas@schools.nyc.gov
Ashley Acosta, FW		aacosta30@schools.nyc.gov
Lauren Rodrigues – School Psychologist		lrodrigues@schools.nyc.gov
Camille Satchwell – School Social Worker		csatchwell@schools.nyc.gov
Speech Therapist - Kelly Gallagher		kgallagher@schools.nyc.gov
Speech Therapist - Heather Park		hpark17@schools.nyc.gov

Occupational Therapist - Lisa Elmore
Physical Therapist - Marife Gutierrez

lelmore@schools.nyc.gov
malfonsogutierr@schools.nyc.gov