JOHN Y. DATER SCHOOL



Dater School HANDBOOK

2026-2027

JOHN Y. DATER SCHOOL

35 School Street, Ramsey, NJ 07446
201.785.2325 I www.ramsey.k12.nj.us

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JOHN Y. DATER SCHOOL

Jennifer Glebocki
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JENNIFER GLEBOCKI
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Dear Families of Dater School,

We hope this handbook provides you with a sense of understanding and appreciation for Dater's policies, procedures, and programs. Also, we hope that this handbook will be a helpful tool that you and your child(ren) might return to throughout the school year. In partnership, it is our hope that you and your child will have an enriching experience at Dater.

We ask that you continue to partner with us in helping your child understand the procedures in this handbook. We feel that a strong education is rooted in the connection between school and home and that this partnership provides students with a truly transformative learning experience. In addition, these policies and procedures are in place to ensure that students, families, and staff feel safe, connected, supported, and so Dater is a place where students feel ready to learn.

We thank you for your anticipated understanding, participation, support, and the opportunity to play such an essential role in the life and education of your child(ren).

We look forward to a successful and exciting school year!

Dater is where we bring our best every day!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Glebocki
Principal

2. Climate and Culture

As an elementary school serving 4th and 5th graders, we hold a special and unique role in our district. As we unite as one school community, we continuously reflect on our hopes for each child we serve.

What is our shared commitment at Dater School?

We will create a school environment where all 4th-graders and 5th-graders will:

- Believe in themselves (confident; perseverance)
- Own their education (self-directed; engaged)
- Develop their personal identities (be seen and heard)
- Lead with empathy and kindness

Responsible, Resilient, Ready

Responsible (Moral and Civic Character)

- Treats others with fairness, respect, and honesty
- Follows rules and honors commitments
- Volunteers time and contributes to the common good
- Owns mistakes and makes ethical choices without needing to be watched (integrity)

Resilient (Performance Character)

- Shows self-discipline and sustained effort
- Perseveres through struggle or failure
- Demonstrates grit - tries again after setbacks
- Manages frustrations and stays task-focused under difficulty

Ready (Intellectual and Civic Character)

- Approaches learning with curiosity and open-mindedness
- Thinks critically and carefully before acting
- Shows intellectual humility - willing to reconsider, ask questions
- Prepared to participate actively as a community member/citizen

3. Attendance, Arrival, and Dismissal

DAILY SCHEDULE

8:15 AM	Supervision begins
8:30 AM	Homeroom begins
8:35 AM	Late bell rings
11:15 AM – 12:00 PM	Grade 5 Lunch/Recess
12:15 PM – 1:00 PM	Grade 4 Lunch/Recess
3:00 PM	Dismissal

MINIMUM DAY SCHEDULE

8:30 AM	Homeroom begins
8:35 AM	Late bell rings
12:30 PM	Dismissal

Note: Lunch will **not** be served on minimum days.

DAILY ATTENDANCE REPORTING

- Parents must report absences through the Parent Portal by 8:30 am; please specify the reason for the absence in the notes using the following descriptions: sick, doctor appointment, travel, death in the family, religious holiday, take your child to work day, or late.

- After 8:30 am, please call the main office at (201) 785-2325, and please follow the prompts provided. The school has a telephone answering machine available for accepting notifications regarding student absences.

- Please note, a child is considered absent for the day if he/she does not attend school for 4 hours.

All students are expected to attend school regularly. **Absences should be for normal illness and family emergencies only.** Warning letters for excessive absences will be sent home after the 4th, 9th, and 12th absences. Students **with 18 or more days** absent will be considered chronically absent and may be subject to grade retention or other consequences outlined in the district policy.

EXEMPT ABSENCES

Please note that family vacations are not excused absences. No homework will be provided if you take your child out of school for a vacation. Teachers should not be asked to provide your child with the work he/she will miss, as the class work and homework are directly related to the classroom instruction that is being missed. Absences for holidays are exempt when proper notification is provided to the school.

TARDIES

It is important that students arrive on time each day, as instructional time is most important. Prompt arrival at school is expected of all students. Late arrival disrupts class and causes loss of instructional time. Any student who arrives at school after 8:35 a.m. is considered tardy. Any student who reports to school after 8:30 MUST report to the Main Office. Not doing so might result in the child being marked absent. This will prompt a phone call home and cause the parent undue concern.

LEAVING DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Parents are discouraged from taking their children out of school during the school day except for a medical appointment that cannot be made after school hours or a family emergency. If it is necessary for students to leave during school hours, they should bring a note from the parent or guardian stating the time and reason for dismissal. When a student is dismissed from class, he/she must stop at the office and leave the note with the secretary. Parents picking up students during school hours must sign their child out in the office.

DISMISSAL OF STUDENTS

Extreme caution will be exercised in the release of children to anyone other than a parent or guardian. Therefore, it is imperative that parents send a note or email the permission to the school by 12:15 p.m. if there is a change in plans for pickup. If a daycare provider picks up your child after school, please send a note to Mrs. Cherrington with the name and phone number of the provider. It is extremely important that we have this information in the Main Office. Unless we have written permission from the parent/guardian, we will not release a student to another individual.

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION

Playground aides provide supervision before school beginning at 8:15 a.m. until entry. Please do NOT plan to have your child arrive at school before that time. They also supervise the cafeteria and playground during the lunch/recess periods. After school, aides supervise the dismissal of students. Students are expected to leave school grounds immediately, as supervision ends at 3:10 p.m. During school hours, the

playground is limited to the students in the school. This includes lunchtime. After school, students who wish to use the playground must be supervised by an adult.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP PROCEDURES

Proper drop-off and pick-up procedures are a major concern for the safety of our children. We have included links on our website that will provide diagrams for additional reference. Parents must adhere to the following:

Drop Off:

8:15 AM Supervision begins - do not drop off any earlier.

- Buses will drop off on School Street
- The main drop off area for students being driven by a personal vehicle is on School Street. Students should exit on the passenger side of the vehicle and walk directly onto the sidewalk. Please pull up to the furthest drop off point and be patient for all students to unload in order to keep traffic moving and most importantly, to keep students safe. If you do not plan to drop off and immediately proceed away from the school, pull up as far past the front doors as possible to talk with your child or help him/her unload a project.
- If you choose, you can drop off on School Street, Shuart Lane or Cherry Lane. If you choose to do this, I would suggest that you have students exit the car on the sidewalks adjacent to the school.
- DO NOT USE THE PARKING LOT FOR DROP OFF. Students should not walk through the parking lot on their own.

Pick-Up:

- 3:00 PM Dater Parking Lot
- You may enter the parking lot only through Entrance 2 off of Cherry Lane.
- At approximately 2:45, the parking lot will be closed.
- Approximately 45 parking places in our parking lot will be available for pickup.
- If you choose to use the parking lot, you must exit your car, meet your child on the sidewalk in front of the school, and walk with them back to your car. Students will not be allowed to walk in the parking lot by themselves.
- In exiting the parking lot, you must use Exit 3 onto Shuart Lane, as by that time, Exit 2 to Cherry Lane will have been closed.
- The bus will load in the parking lot adjacent to Shuart Lane.
- The front pass-through will not be accessible during pick-up.

If you are parking away from the school, please discuss pedestrian safety and crossing with the crossing guard, as we have with your child. Following these guidelines should get your child safely in your car, which, as always, is our primary concern.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

On rainy days, mornings that are below 30 degrees, and snowy days, students will enter the building after 8:15 a.m. Due to the hectic and confusing circumstances that often take place on inclement weather days, parents are requested not to enter the building.

SCHOOL-WIDE MORNING MEETING

Every Wednesday, all students will line up inside of the gym, regardless of weather, to engage in a schoolwide morning meeting. During all drop off, please remember to pull your car all of the way to the start of the drop off line and the students will walk on the sidewalk to their line up locations.

4. Safety and Security

IDENTIFICATION BADGE

All outside doors are kept locked during the school day. Parents/guardians and other visitors are required to report to the Main Office upon entering the building. All volunteers and visitors are required to scan a photo ID and wear prominently the identification badge issued by our ID System. Visitors should return the badge when leaving. Anyone entering the building and not reporting to the office will give cause for the police to be notified. Parents who wish to speak to a teacher must have an appointment and check in at the main office.

FIRE DRILL PROCEDURES

The fire alarm is a continuous buzzing sound accompanied by flashing strobe lights. When the warning sounds, all building occupants are to leave as quickly and quietly as possible. Evacuation is to be completed in an orderly manner. The appropriate exit route is displayed in each room. If a barrier blocks an exit, the closest exit should be used.

SCHOOL SAFETY DRILLS

Lockdown drills have become as necessary as fire drills so that everyone is prepared and their safety is ensured in case of an emergency. The students are also instructed about the procedure of a building evacuation. The school is prepared for a variety of emergency situations such as fire, bomb threats, lockdowns, and relocation to another site.

5. Student Expectations and Behavior

CODE OF BEHAVIOR

The students, staff, and parents of Dater School have worked to develop a Code of Behavior for the purpose of providing a framework of appropriate behavior for our students. At the beginning of the school year, classroom teachers discuss our Code of Behavior with their students and post a copy in their classroom. At appropriate times during the school year, teachers review the Code of Behavior with their students and will use it as a basis for morning meeting lessons, RULER lessons, and Character Education. Our goal is to assist students in understanding and internalizing the high expectations we hold for behavior and academic work. Please be sure to encourage your children to remember that this Code of Behavior applies to behavior in the hallway, cafeteria and on the playground. The Ramsey Board of Education Policy 5600 Student Discipline/Code of Conduct will be implemented for Code of Conduct violations.

DATER SCHOOL CODE OF BEHAVIOR

Always respect other people's feelings.
Always respect other people's property.
Always treat people the way you would want to be treated.
Always set a positive example.
Always be helpful to others.
Always respect teachers and other adults.
Always take responsibility for your own behavior.
Always come to school physically and mentally prepared to learn.
Always look for a peaceful solution during a disagreement.

STUDENT MISBEHAVIOR

It is the mission of our school to provide the most positive environment possible for our students. We strive to establish a learning environment where students are safe, teachers can teach, students can learn, and students are free from harassment. Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to:

1. Continued and willful disobedience;
2. Open defiance of the authority of any teacher;
3. Lying, cheating;
4. Fighting or physical assault;
5. Hazing or harassment of a pupil in a sexual, verbal, or physical manner;
6. Use of profanity or threatening language;

7. Throwing of objects;
8. Taking or attempting to take school property or personal property from another pupil;
9. Damaging school property;
10. Causing a false fire alarm;
11. Inappropriate use of technology.

Classroom misbehavior will be handled by the classroom teacher. Serious offenses will be referred to the dean of students or the building principal. The Ramsey Board of Education Policy 5600 Student Discipline/Code of Conduct will be implemented.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING

The Ramsey Board of Education expects pupils to treat each other with civility and respect, and will not tolerate acts of harassment, intimidation, and bullying. "Harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents, that:

1. is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or
2. by any other distinguishing characteristic, and that
3. takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off school grounds as provided for in section 16 of P.L.2010, c.122 (C.18A:37-15.3), that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students and that:
4. a reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging the student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his person or damage to his property; or
5. has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students; or
6. creates a hostile educational environment for the student by interfering with a student's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student.
7. “Electronic communication” means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to: a telephone, cellular phone, or computer.

CONSEQUENCES AND REMEDIAL MEASURES

Student misbehavior, including HIB offenses, will be followed by consequences and appropriate remedial measures. As per board policy, “appropriate consequences and remedial actions are those that are graded according to the severity of the offense(s), considering the developmental ages of the pupil offenders and pupils’ histories of inappropriate behaviors.”

Consequences may include, but are not limited to:

1. Admonishment
2. Temporary removal from the classroom
3. Deprivation of privileges
4. Detention (lunch and after-school)
5. Grading (if caught cheating)
6. In-school suspension
7. Suspension from School

Possible Remedial Measures include, but are not limited to:

1. Restitution and Restoration
2. Counseling
3. Parent Conferences
4. Alternate Educational Program

6. General Policies and Procedures

FORGOTTEN ITEMS

Please do not ask that your children be summoned to the Main Office for forgotten items unless it is an emergency. Do not go to your child's classroom without stopping at the Main Office. We avoid disrupting classes as much as possible. Classes will not be interrupted for forgotten instruments, homework assignments, lunches, etc. These items may be placed on the table in the front lobby. Please write your child's name and grade on any items you leave on the table.

OFFICE TELEPHONE

Office telephone use by students will be permitted for emergencies only (e.g., lunch, transportation). Use of the telephone for homework, musical instruments, sneakers, or play dates will not be permitted. Students will be permitted to call home for transportation when a carpool has not arrived or when staying at the direction of a teacher.

HOMEWORK

Students will receive from forty-five minutes to one hour of homework Monday through Thursday. Over the weekend homework is not usually given. However, your child may do some long-term project work or finish some work from the prior week at that time. Please see the district calendar for designated "Homework Free Weekends".

Understand that this time frame is general. If on a given night your child has received considerably more or less than the amount stated here, do not become overly concerned. If a consistent pattern does begin to develop, please contact your child's teacher and alert him/her to it. Your feedback will be important as the teachers monitor and adjust their assignments.

BIKE RIDING TO SCHOOL

Our school policy allows students in grades 4 and 5 to ride their bicycles to school. Students must be able to lock and unlock their bicycles independently. If you allow your child to ride to school, know the following:

- He/she must wear a helmet, which can be stored in their backpack or on their bicycle (New Jersey State law requires anyone under 17 that rides a bicycle to wear a helmet)
- Obey the rules of the road
- Ride courteously
- Lock the bicycle in one of the bike racks located near the front entrance way.

- Walk the bicycle while on school property

Please remind your children that bikes, helmets, locks, etc. are not to be touched by anyone other than the bike's owner. Please remember that Ramsey requires the registration of all bicycles. When traveling to and from school, students must obey all traffic regulations and wear a bicycle helmet.

The school assumes no responsibility for bicycles. However, provisions have been made to safeguard bikes by requiring them to be properly parked and locked in the school bike racks. Bicycles are never to be ridden on school grounds.

WALKING TO SCHOOL

There are many benefits to walking to school! You are fortunate that you live in a community where your safety comes first. When walking, keep the following in mind:

- Crossing guards are present at the main intersections to help keep you safe. Cross the street by the crossing guard.
- If there is a crosswalk, use it.
- Before crossing, look left, right and left again to make sure the road is clear.
- Do not cross the street between parked cars.

ACCEPTABLE SCHOOL ATTIRE

(Ramsey Board of Education Policy 5511 - DRESS AND GROOMING)

"Pupils who take pride in the way they look and dress usually feel good about themselves. They must come to understand that the manner and style in which they dress is very much dependent on the setting. Some clothing worn in other settings is not appropriate for school. Our pupils are expected to be neat and clean in appearance and to dress in good taste.

It is expected that pupils in the Ramsey School District, in conjunction with parental guidance, shall exercise reasonable judgment and appropriateness when determining what clothing to wear to school.

The Ramsey School District Dress and Grooming Policy strictly prohibits clothing and grooming which:

1. Presents a hazard to the health or safety of the pupils or others in the building;
2. Interferes with schoolwork, creates disorder or distraction and/or disrupts the educational program;
3. Causes excessive wear or damage to school property; and

4. Prevents a pupil from achieving his/her own education objectives because of blocked vision or restrictive movement.

In order to maintain an environment conducive to education at the Kindergarten to 5 level, the following are examples of the expectations. These examples include, but are not limited to:

1. Shorts and skirts must be long and loose enough to allow freedom of movement.
2. Clothing (skirts, tops, jeans, pants) that are extremely low-cut or revealing, backless, strapless, transparent, halter, pajamas or that expose the bare mid-section or upper/lower torso during any normal actions, including standing, sitting or leaning over, may not be worn.
3. Clothing such as leggings/sweat pants/spandex or flannel pants are acceptable and may be worn under a skirt or shorts.
4. Clothing bearing print or pictures relating to the use, possession or advertising of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or weapons, the use of violence, the negative depiction of a race, ethnic, religious or sexual group, or language that is profane or obscene or that states or implies sexual behavior may not be worn.
5. Clothing that is shredded, ripped or cut off may not be worn. Shirts manufactured as sleeveless are acceptable.
6. No undergarments should be visible.
7. Beachwear is not permitted.
8. Attire including buttons and patches with inappropriate, derogatory, gang related or offensive sayings or graphics are not permitted in school.
9. Any clothing, bandanas, hats or symbols that are indicative of gang colors or membership are prohibited.
10. Hats, bandanas, visors, and the hoods of hooded sweatshirts are not to be worn during the school day in the school building during class hours.
11. Head coverings worn for religious reasons are allowed with verification provided to the school by a parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
12. For their own health and safety, pupils must wear footwear at all times. Bare feet, shoes with cleats or roller wheels and bedroom slippers are not permitted in school.
13. Sunglasses and tinted non-prescription glasses are not permitted except as prescribed by a pupil's physician.
14. For health and safety reasons heavy chains, studded collars or bracelets and choke collars are not permitted.

Pupils who violate the dress code will be asked to change or cover-up, may be asked to have a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) deliver appropriate clothing to school, or may be asked to return home to make necessary changes. Repeat offenders will be disciplined.

No restrictions on pupil freedom of dress that are contrary to law and which might violate the rights of an individual will be imposed."

CELL PHONE & INTERNET WATCH POLICY

(Ramsey Board of Education Policy - 5516.2 Cell Phones and Personal Electronic Devices)

We understand that cell phones and internet watches can be an important means of communication between home and students, especially walking to and from school. However, please know that students are permitted to bring cell phones and internet watches into the building for use before and after school only. During the school day, phones and internet watches must be turned off and kept in their backpacks. Under no circumstances may students use cell phones or internet watches in the building to make phone calls or take photographs. Students found using cell phones or internet watches in the building between 8:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. will have them confiscated, and a parent will be required to come into the building and pick up the cell phone or internet watch. Multiple offenses by an individual may result in losing the privilege for the remainder of the year. If you must contact your child in an emergency, please call the Main Office, **not your child's cell phone/watch**, during school hours.

FIDGETS AND TOYS FROM HOME

To maintain a focused and equitable learning environment, Dater School has established the following policies:

- **Fidget Tools:** Personal fidget tools from home are not permitted for general classroom use. Students with a documented need may be provided with an approved fidget tool on a case-by-case basis, in collaboration with teachers and support staff. Approved tools are selected specifically for their ability to support focus without causing distractions - must not be visible or audible to others in the classroom.
- **Chewing Gum:** Chewing gum is not permitted at Dater School during the school day, as it can be a distraction and presents cleanliness challenges.

If a student is found with a non-approved item, the following steps apply:

1. **First occurrence:** Reminder and redirection to place the item in their backpack.

2. **Second occurrence:** Reminder and redirection, plus a phone call home to partner with families on the expectation.
3. **Third occurrence:** Reminder and redirection, plus follow-up from the Dean of Students/support team.

If you have questions regarding your child's specific needs, please reach out to the school administration.

FIELD TRIPS

Educational field trips are taken in conjunction with the curriculum at the various grade levels. These trips are designed to supplement different aspects of the classroom curriculum and to introduce students to the resources of the community. Parents will receive notices of field trips well in advance of the scheduled trip date and will always be asked to sign field trip permission forms. Parents MUST sign and return permission slips in a timely fashion in order for their child to participate. Failure to do so may exclude a child from attending. Please be cognizant of the time the field trip is scheduled for departure. Please be advised that if a child requires medication while on a field trip no one other than the child's parent will be able to administer the medication.

CRITICAL POLICIES

You can find all district policies by visiting www.ramsey.k12.nj.us . The policies include specific information regarding: the Code of Conduct and disciplinary actions for students; definitions and policies relative to harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyber-bullying; character education programs and activities in place in each school; parental learning opportunities; processes and procedures for reporting incidences of harassment, intimidation and bullying; Affirmative Action and other pertinent information regarding these issues.

PETS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

For numerous reasons, including allergies and liability, dogs and other pets are prohibited from school property during school hours without permission. If scheduled for PET PARADE for Dater Dateline, parents are required to bring the pet to school and immediately take the pet home after the presentation is completed. The only people touching the pet will be the student and the parent.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Students are allowed to celebrate their birthday in school with a classroom special event **ONLY**. Special events include extra recess, a class game, or a class craft.

Classroom parties are always arranged by the teacher in conjunction with the room parents. He/she will contact the room parents to set the time, date, and needs for the party. The room parents are then responsible for arranging the delivery of the supplies for the party. The room parents are urged to involve as many parents as possible in preparing for the parties.

No food should be served during any celebrations. There are a number of students with severe food allergies.

7. Lunch and Recess Procedures

EATING

Students who eat lunch at school are expected to display proper behavior and manners while eating. Misbehavior in the cafeteria may result in lunchtime detention.

- LUNCHTIME EXPECTATIONS
    - Enter the cafeteria in a quiet and orderly fashion.
    - Sit at the table without crowding the other children.
    - Use good manners.
    - Speak in a soft voice.
    - Do not share or trade food with the other children at your table.
    - Clean up all food, paper and other items before being dismissed.
    - Always listen to the adults in charge.

RECESS

Weather permitting, students will be outside for recess. Students should always dress in anticipation of having an outdoor recess. When weather conditions dictate, students will have recess inside. This will be held either in the gym or the classrooms. If your child is planning to participate in active recess experiences, please have them come to school in appropriate dress and footwear. Students excused from gym are not allowed to participate in outdoor recess. Individual accommodations are made for these students. Decisions to have outside recess during cold weather are made by the principal. These decisions depend upon the temperature and the wind chill factor. Only students with medical excuses will be allowed to remain in the building during scheduled outside breaks.

- PLAYGROUND / RECESS EXPECTATIONS

    - Stay safe by playing in the designated areas only. An adult should always be able to see you.
    - Do not leave the grounds at any time.
    - Never participate in rough activities such as pushing, wrestling, tackling or play fighting.
    - Include all children who want to play.
    - Share playground equipment and supplies.
    - Use playground equipment in the manner for which it was intended.
    - Be courteous to other students who are involved in a game.
    - Always follow the directions of the adult in charge.
    - Tell an adult immediately if someone gets hurt.
    - Tell an adult immediately if someone is bullied or harassed.

- Tell an adult if a stranger is on school grounds.
- Stop playing and line up immediately when recess is over.
- Always go to your class's designated area to line up.
- Have fun!

8. Health and Safety Practices

MEDICATIONS

We ask that if your child has any special conditions such as severe allergies, diabetes or asthma that you stop in and speak to the nurse, Mr. Mion in the Health Office. We will then form an individualized plan of care for the school year.

We ask you to review the following policies regarding medication administration in the school.

- New Jersey State law prohibits a nurse from administering any medication, including over-the-counter medication without a doctor's order.
- All over-the-counter medications as well as "controlled substances" should be supplied from home, labeled with the student's name in the original bottle, box or container, verified and stored with the nurse in the clinic.
- Students MAY NOT CARRY ANY MEDICATION ON THEIR PERSON for self-administration. This includes Tylenol, cough drops, inhalers, eye drops, etc. However, with the proper forms on file, the student may visit the Health Office and take their medication themselves.
- If your child needs to take medicine in school, we ask that you call your doctor and provide us with a written order. A parent signature is required as well.
- Please advise us if your child requires medication while on a field trip. If a parent cannot be present during the field trip, the parent should decide whether to allow the child to participate with or without medication.
- Please contact us for an Authorization for Medication Form and/or a Self-Medication Authorization Form. If at any time you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the Health Office at (201) 785-2326.

9. Home-School Communication

Dater School thrives on positive communication. One important avenue of communication is between parents and our school faculty. In addition to written communication, parents may leave messages for faculty members through the Main Office. You may also send faculty members e-mail messages.

District Communication Pathways: Ramsey School District values collaborative partnerships and open communication between schools and families. To help foster that collaboration and communication, we have developed communication pathways to promote direct, open, and respectful interactions to work out concerns quickly and efficiently.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-teacher conferences occur **November 2, 3, & 4 2026.** Parents will be assigned a specific appointment with the teachers of each of their children, regardless of the progress of the child. These conference times are very valuable to the overall education program. However, it is not necessary to wait for the regular conference time if a parent has a special concern. Parent conferences are encouraged and can be arranged at any time during the school year.

E-MAIL

Teachers check email between the hours of 8:10 and 3:10 **but not while teaching**. **Expect a 24-hour response time.** Please call the main office with emergencies and dismissal changes.

Guidelines for using e-mail:

1. E-mail should only be used to send a teacher a note that does not require an immediate response. Occasionally, unusual events may prevent a teacher from opening up his or her email on any given day.
2. E-mail correspondence will not be used by teachers to discuss a child's academic or educational program.
3. E-mails are not accessed over the weekend or on any school holiday.
4. A timeline for an expected email response is 24 hours.
5. Teachers have been directed to not answer emails when teaching, after 4:00pm and before 8:00am.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports are issued three times during the school year for Grades 4 and 5. Please carefully review your child's progress and contact the school if you have any

questions or concerns regarding grades.

Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled in the fall. However, a parent may request a conference with their child's teacher at any time during the school year. Please call the school for an appointment if a conference is desired. Likewise, a teacher may sometimes find it necessary to request a special conference with a parent. Parents are asked to review the report cards with their child(ren). Report cards are issued by trimester:

- **December 11, 2026**
- **March 25, 2027**
- **June 18, 2027**

PTO

All community members, parents and staff are invited to join the Dater School PTO (Parent Teacher Organization). The purpose of the PTO is to provide parental support to the school, students, faculty, and administration. This includes raising funds and volunteering time with various projects that help to enrich the educational experience of students. The Dater PTO meets throughout the year in-person and on zoom to review school happenings and upcoming ways to get involved. You can contact the PTO at DaterPTO@ramsey.k12.nj.us and access the website to see important information.

10. Special Education Services

The Ramsey School District is committed to providing a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment (LRE), in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 6A:14). Special education services are designed to meet the unique needs of students who qualify under one or more of the 14 classifications recognized by the state. These services may include specialized instruction, related services (e.g., speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy), accommodations, and modifications as outlined in each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Special education supports are available for eligible students ages 3 through 21 and are determined through a collaborative process involving the child study team, educators, and families. The district emphasizes inclusive practices that allow students with disabilities to participate alongside their peers to the maximum extent possible.

If you suspect your child may have a disability that impacts their educational performance, we encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher, school principal, or the Office of Special Services for further discussion and guidance.

Child Find and Requesting an Evaluation

In accordance with federal and state regulations, the Ramsey School District actively engages in Child Find activities to identify, locate, and evaluate students who may have educational disabilities and be in need of special education and related services.

If you are a parent or guardian and would like to request an initial evaluation to determine your child's eligibility for special education services, your written request must include:

- Your child's full name and date of birth
- A brief explanation of the reason you are requesting an evaluation
- Copies of any prior evaluations or reports (if applicable)
- Your contact information (address, phone number, and email)
- ***Your original signature***

Please note: **Email requests will not be accepted** as formal referrals. A meeting of the child study team will be scheduled within **20 calendar days** of receipt of your written request.

Submit your written request to:
Dr. Donna Volpe, Director of Special Services
Dater School
35 School Street
Ramsey, NJ 07446

For any questions, you may contact the Office of Special Services at **201-785-2321**.

11. Student Technology Use

Dater is a 1:1 Chromebook School. Toddle is the Learning Management System used by the K-12 Ramsey School District. All of the student's assignments can be found on the student's Toddle Courses. Dater Students are taught appropriate use of district technology in school and sign a Technology Use Contract, which outlines appropriate behavior with district devices.

Policies

Parents complete questions each school year about Technology Use in the Ramsey School District on the Parent Portal. You are invited to review the following Ramsey Board of Education Policies:

Use of Technology P2360
Student Use of Privately-Owned Technology P2363
Acceptable Use of Computer/Networks/Computers and Resources P2361
Use of Electronic Communication and Recording Devices (ECRD) P5516.

Digital Citizenship/Responsible Use Instruction

Dater Students receive explicit instruction through the Common Sense Media Curriculum on Digital Citizenship and Responsible Technology Use. This instruction is done in the Dater Instructional Technology Center and is a collaboration between the Library/Media Specialist and the Guidance Counselor.

Payschools Central

Lunch accounts can be managed online and can be auto-replenished.
You must pre-order and pre-pay on **Payschools Central** for your child's lunch.

Follow this link to all information regarding lunch and breakfast options:
https://www.ramsey.k12.nj.us/page/dining-services

Gaggle

All district devices are monitored for student safety by Gaggle. If an alert is sent about a district device, the student and family will be notified. These alerts can include but are not limited to: inappropriate content use, evidence of bullying, evidence of self-harm, etc.