

2014-2015 Frequently Asked Questions

- **What should my child know if he/she is new to the school?**

Please have your child inform his/her teacher that he/she is new to our school. Your child's teacher will gladly orient your child to the new surroundings by using the buddy system. Look for the bulletin board in the cafeteria that provides information and photographs of new students.

- **What are lunch prices?**

The cost of a hot lunch is \$2.65 including milk. Milk alone is \$.55. Breakfast is also available daily between 8:30 a.m. and 8:50 a.m. The cost is \$1.20. Snacks are available for the students to buy during lunch. Parents may add money to your child's food service account. You need to know your child's student ID # (most all returning students should know their number - hopefully!). If your child's ID # starts with 0, drop the initial 0 if you have trouble logging into the site. The direct site is www.mynutrikids.com. This is also informative for knowing what your child is buying with the money and you have the option to restrict purchasing power! Information on the system is also available through the school district website. If a child pays cash, the child is instructed to bring their lunch money daily or pay for the entire week. Forms to apply for free and reduced price lunches are sent home with each student at the beginning of the school year. However, if your financial situation should change later in the school year and you need an eligibility form, contact the school office at 215-884-3368.

- **What do I do when my child is absent from school?**

When your child is absent from school, you must follow the procedures as outlined in the Abington School District's Superintendent's Administrative Procedure regarding student absences. You must call the school at 215-884-3368 and press "2" for the Child Check line. Please leave your student's name, teacher's name, and a brief reason for the absence. Upon the child's return to school, you must provide the school with a note outlining the reason for the absence. The parent/guardian must provide the note within three calendar days after the student's return to school. If a parent/guardian fails to do so, the absence will be counted as unexcused. Full details of Abington School District's attendance policy can be found on the school district website, www.abington.k12.pa.us under "About ASD-Guide to Useful Information."

I strongly advise you to keep any child home from school if the child has flu-like symptoms. It takes every parent following recommended guidelines in order to keep our school community vibrant and strong. It is our goal to have a healthy year.

- **What constitutes a legal absence from school?**

A legal or excused absence may be for illness, death in the family, "Take your Child to Work Day (with documentation) or religious reasons. A family vacation or educational trip is not an excused absence and is considered an unlawful absence by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- **What must I do to pick up my child during school time?**

If you plan to pick up your child before dismissal time (3:20 PM), please send a note to school with your child stating the exact time you will arrive. When you arrive, your child will be called to the office. Children will not be permitted to wait in the office until their parent/guardian arrives. If there are any custody restrictions regarding your child, please provide the office with a document from the Court. We cannot permit children to be released to anyone other than a parent/guardian without written consent from the parent/guardian. For your child's protection, parents/guardians must report to the office and sign the child out before leaving the school with the child.

- **May my child switch buses?**

Students may ride only their assigned buses. Your child's assigned bus stop is with your child's profile on Skyward. Students will not be permitted to change buses to accommodate after school plans. Students who are considered "walkers" will not be permitted to ride buses to accommodate after school plans.

- **May my child ride a bike to school?**

Only students in grades 3-6 are permitted to ride bikes to school. All bikes must be attached to the bike rack with a lock. Bike riders are not permitted to bring their bikes into school. In accordance with Pennsylvania law, all children riding a bike to school must wear a safety helmet. A notice will be given if a child does not wear a helmet and the bike privilege may be revoked. Skateboards and scooters are not permitted.

- **What if my child isn't home on time?**

Get to know your child's friends on the bus and those with whom he/she walks home. Typically, students can be easily distracted and forget to inform parents. In the event of severe weather (thunder/lightning), walking students will be held until we believe it is safe. For the first few weeks of school, it is not uncommon to have the bus arrive late to pick-up or drop-off students. Once routines are established, the predictability of your driver should be very consistent.

- **How may I participate and become involved with Roslyn School?**

Join our PTO or become a school volunteer. By a combined effort of parents and teachers, we will be able to insure an excellent year of learning for our students. Come to the first PTO meeting on September 10 at 7:00 PM. More details will be given at that time. All PTO meetings will be held in the cafeteria. Meetings usually are the fourth Thursday of every month. Please check the calendar for dates.

- **What school support is given if my child is experiencing problems with the curriculum?**

Children's progress is monitored closely by teachers, administration and other school personnel. Keeping in close contact with your child's teacher and any support staff who work with your child is your child's best opportunity to be successful. All teachers have e-mail addresses and phones/voicemail in the classrooms. E-mail addresses are posted on the Roslyn School website. Instructional support is given by the reading specialists, mathematics specialist, speech therapist and other personnel. You will have the opportunity to learn about the curriculum at Back-to-School Night. If there is a problem or you wish to discuss your child's progress, please set up a convenient time for you and your child's teacher to discuss the matter. You may also write a note to your child's teacher requesting a conference or phone call. There also will be two scheduled parent-teacher conferences during the year: **December 9,10,11** and **March 17, 18,19**.

- **How can my child take medication at school?**

Our medication procedure requires that we receive the following information before any medication will be given: (1) The medication must be in the original container; (2) A written note from your doctor stating the dosage and duration of medication and (3) A written note from the parent/guardian giving the school permission to administer the medicine. A nurse or health clerk is at Roslyn daily (8:30 AM to 3:20 PM). Due to state regulations, we must have a doctor's note to give your child medication at a different time from normal. The school district is not allowed to have teachers dispense medication on a trip. Please make a special note of this before your child's class goes on a trip.

- **If my child becomes ill at school, how will the school contact me?**

The school nurse or health clerk will call the numbers listed on your Emergency Health Card (yellow card) if your child is too ill to stay in school or has received a substantial injury or any head injury. **To insure prompt care for your child, please notify the school immediately if any of your phone numbers (home, work, or emergency) change.** This information also goes into our automatic phone system in case of a school emergency (snow closing).

- **How long is the school day?**

Grades K-6 begin classes at 8:50 AM and are dismissed at 3:20 PM. Kindergarten students have a 45-minute lunch/recess with a 15-minute morning recess. Grades 1 - 6 have a one-hour lunch/recess. Please provide snacks for your Kindergarten students. Following is the lunch schedule: Grades 1 and 2 - 11:00 - 12:00; Grades 3 and 4 - 11:30-12:30; Grades 5 and 6 - 12:00 - 1:00 and Kindergarten 12:30 - 1:15. Kindergarten recess is 11:00-11:15.

- **How will I be informed about school events?**

Abington School District sends out school district calendars. PTO flyers and school flyers will also provide you with information concerning activities. Please make sure your information is correct on Skyward as information increasingly gets sent home electronically. Our PTO provides "*The Roslyn Times*" and school newsletters will be sent home periodically with the students. If you have access to a computer, you can take a look at the Roslyn Web Page - www.abington.k12.pa.us. Our PTO also has an active Facebook page (Roslyn PTO). Teachers also send home information frequently about happenings in the classroom or at a certain grade level. Also you can be connected to Abington School

District 24/7 through the app you can get for free from iTunes or the Android store. It is called **ASD To Go**. It includes all interesting district information. I encourage you to download - it's free!

- **How will I know what days the elementary schools are not in session?**

Refer to the Abington School District Calendar or the district website for a general overview of our curriculum, policies and procedures.

- **Will my child be permitted to phone home if he/she has forgotten an item such as a lunchbox, homework, etc?**

It is our goal for children to become accountable and responsible for their actions. Therefore, children will only be permitted to phone home in an emergency situation, not for forgotten daily items. Students may borrow when your child forgets his/her lunch money. Repayment is expected the following school day. Our lost and found is located in the school cafeteria.

- **What is the school procedure for a weather emergency?**

The Abington School District Calendar provides you with important information concerning school closings due to serious weather conditions. You will most likely receive a call via Skyward about a late arrival or school closure. The Abington School District school closing number is 301. If there is a need for an emergency early dismissal, our system will alert you. Therefore, it is essential that your information is accurate and current on Skyward. Please call us to assist if you have trouble accessing the system. We also ask that an emergency weather dismissal card is completed so that your child knows what to do if you are not available. Having the card in mom's writing eases much anxiety if students are taken out of their regular routine. We will follow your instructions. Remember: We will not permit your child to be dismissed to someone not listed on your emergency card.

- **If I have a concern for my child in a particular subject area, what should I do?**

The first person that you should speak to regarding your child's academic success is the classroom teacher. The teacher will discuss your child's classroom performance with you and following your conversation, he/she may wish to consult with other school personnel for further assistance:

Dr. Kevin Osborne	-	Principal
Mrs. Tyheshia Carmichael	-	Elementary Curriculum Specialist
Mrs. Angela Falquez	-	School Psychologist
Ms. Jennifer Peszek	-	Supervisor of Special Education
Mrs. Melinda Spoerl	-	Reading Specialist
Mrs. Kathy Walton	-	Reading Specialist - Title I
Mrs. Kathy Weiss	-	Reading Specialist
Dr. Kelly Doyle	-	Supervisor of Communication Arts
Ms. Denise Mendez	-	Coordinator of Elementary Math and Science

- **Does my child need to purchase supplies for school?**

Please look at the lists supplied by the classroom teachers. The school district provides only supplies that relate directly to the instructional program. Children will be required to provide supplies of a general nature. Teachers will ask for specific supplies for each specific classroom. In the event that the purchase of supplies constitutes an undue financial hardship, please contact the office so that alternative arrangements may be made. **Scissors are provided by the school. Do not permit your child to bring scissors to school.** Your child's teacher will further specify what supplies from this list will be needed at that grade level. If you have any questions, please contact the teacher.

- **Are there specific district or school policies that I should discuss with my child?**

You know your child best. Please refer to the Abington School District 2014-2015 calendar "Guide to Useful Information" and/or the ASD website, www.abington.k12.pa.us, under "About ASD-Guide to Useful Information." All School Board policies and procedures for the workings of the school district are accessible through the website. If you have specific concerns related to your child or the school, you will most likely find the answer there.

- **What safety precautions are taken at Roslyn?**

We regard your child's safety as the number one priority. All visitors must report to the office to sign your students out of the building. Visitors must sign in at the office and receive a visitor's badge to wear for identification. All doors are locked and everyone entering needs to go past a staff member. All visitors must enter the school through the main office. "Child Check" alerts parents to absenteeism. Parents are required to schedule conferences with teachers to ensure safety of staff after school hours. Parents/visitors are not permitted to go to the classroom during the school day without prior arrangements having been made with the teacher or principal. Aides are in the cafeteria

and on the playground before school, during lunch and recess to ensure children are safe. Bullying and violence are not acceptable behaviors at Roslyn and we are proactive in teaching positive behavior, anti-bullying, and character education. Monthly fire drills, lockdown drills and weather emergency drills are held to ensure that students know what to do in case of a sudden and unexpected emergency.

- **May I return to the school for my child's forgotten homework or other items?**

Teachers are required to be here until 3:35 PM. If your child has forgotten his/her homework, please contact another student or apprise the teacher the following day. Most of our curriculum materials can also be accessed online. Our goal is to help our children develop responsibility. Please do not ask school staff to unlock doors or classroom for forgotten items. No one is permitted to enter a classroom without a scheduled conference or teacher present in the room.

- **What is the amount of homework that I should expect?**

The amount of homework your child receives should correspond to the District guidelines stated below. Please keep in mind that many factors may affect the time it takes your child to complete assignments. If you find that your child is experiencing continued difficulty with homework, please contact the teacher so that you can work out a plan together that benefits your child.

Grade K	5-10 minutes	Grade 4	30-45 minutes
Grade 1	10-15 minutes	Grade 5	45-60 minutes
Grade 2	15-20 minutes	Grade 6	60-90 minutes
Grade 3	25-30 minutes		

- **What is the discipline plan and expected student behavior for the school or classroom?**

Each teacher has a class discipline plan that is visible in the classroom and will be shared with you at Open House (September 17) or via a class newsletter.

The building behavior plan focuses on the development of student character by continuing with our Character Education Program: Roslyn ROCKETS (Respect, hOnesty, Cooperation, Kindness, Excellence, Tolerance & Safety).

Consequences and rewards are used by teachers and the principal to help children become responsible for their actions and to interact with others appropriately. Parents will be notified by a telephone call or letter when a student has seen the principal for disciplinary reasons. Your support is vital for maintaining a violence- free school environment and meeting behavioral expectations.

Tips From Teachers

Teachers have provided these suggestions to help make this school year successful and the transition back to school an easy one:

- Have your backpack, books, sneakers, instrument and projects in one designated area in the house so that morning is less hectic.
- Discuss the menu and things that they like so that children are not throwing food away or not eating at school.
- Have a quiet, designated homework time and space. Check your child's homework, but don't do it for them.
- Demonstrate interest in your children's day. Ask questions as they talk about school. Don't judge what they say.
- Write a little encouraging note and place it in your child's lunch box.
- Make sure that your children know their emergency contacts so they are confident in the event of an emergency.
- Label everything that belongs to your child - first and last names.
- Attend Back- to- School Night to learn what will be expected of you and your child.
- Make contact with the teacher as soon and as often as needed.
- Make an effort to meet other parents in your child's class in the event of homework question or a special event.
- Check the bookbag/backpack daily.
- Set goals with your child to improve on last year's performance in a specific area.
- Make school important to you so that it will be important to your son/daughter.
- Demonstrate a POSITIVE & SUPPORTIVE ATTITUDE toward the school.
- Establish dedicated time and space for your child to practice his/her musical instrument in a focused, distraction-free environment.
- Make sure your child is on time for school.
- Check your child's homework and initial it or write a note to the teacher.
- Discuss times that you use math each day: cooking - measuring ingredients, classifying and counting - putting groceries away (same goods together), shopping - which is the cheaper price.
- Establish a good bedtime routine. Tired children have difficulty learning.

- Value education by helping your child understand that school comes first; then soccer, dance classes, etc.
- Respect your child's ideas by listening attentively.
- Be sure your child starts each day with a nutritious breakfast.
- READ, READ, READ to your child everyday, even as they get older!
- When beginning to complete homework, always consider completing the most difficult subject first.
- Share the good and bad of your day with your child and then ask him for one good and bad event of his day.
- Keep teachers apprised when/if a concern arises. Always consult the teacher first. Our goal is the same as yours: Success for your child.
- Write in a journal or diary everyday.
- Toys belong at home and may become lost or broken at school.
- Remember to let your child see you reading. The example you set is a very powerful motivator.
- Have your child arrange to have a study-buddy, someone they can contact about homework, special assignments, etc.
- Have a special place - up high - for library books. Be aware that books are a special treat to a dog!
- Be interested in the library books your child brings home. Read it - even if it would not be your choice.
- Research shows that the most efficient way to study is a little each night (no cramming) and then go to sleep! Sleep helps the brain process and retain information.
- BE POSITIVE. Your child learns how to react and interact by watching you.
- Praise your child daily, even when it's one of those days!

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have a concern or question. Problems can be remedied much more easily if they are known early. We wish your child a wonderful school year!