



# Smithtown Central School District

## Dogwood Elementary School

50 Dogwood Drive, Smithtown, NY 11787

**Renée Carpenter**  
Principal  
(631) 382-4255

**Mark Secaur, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

January 2025

Dear Incoming Kindergarten Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to our Dogwood Elementary School! We are excited that you and your child will be joining us in September 2025! In order to help facilitate a smooth transition for your child to kindergarten we have planned some activities to help you and your child get to know us and to help familiarize you and your child to Dogwood Elementary.

### **Kindergarten Orientation Program**

On March 14th, we offer a one day Kindergarten Orientation Program. During this visit, your preschooler will have an opportunity to get acquainted with our school, staff, and classes. You may choose for your child to attend either the morning or afternoon session. **Please call Mrs. Headrick to register your child for Kindergarten Orientation at 631-382-4252 for either session.**

- A.M. session – Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m.
- P.M. session – Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m.

### **Kindergarten Bus Ride**

Incoming kindergarten students may participate in a short bus ride around our Dogwood community to help them adjust to riding a school bus. This bus ride is scheduled for **Friday, March 21st at 10:15 a.m.** If you would like for your child to participate in the bus ride, please fill out the attached permission form and return it to Dogwood's Main Office, attention to Mrs. Headrick or email it to [cheadrick@smithtown.k12.ny.us](mailto:cheadrick@smithtown.k12.ny.us).

### **New Parent Orientation**

You are invited to Parent Orientation in our Dogwood library on **Friday, March 21st at 10:15 a.m.** This is the same time that incoming kindergarten students will be on their bus ride. During the parent orientation, we will present a brief overview of our program, distribute information packets, and provide you with an opportunity to meet the kindergarten teachers, reading teachers and members of our support staff. We will also acquaint you with the numerous activities that the PTA sponsors on behalf of our students and review the kindergarten screening process with you.

**Kindergarten Screening**

Kindergarten Screening is scheduled for **May 28th, 29th and 30th**. Appointments will be made through Dogwood's Main Office. If you do not receive a call from Mrs. Headrick by the end of April, please contact her at 631-382-4252. Each appointment lasts approximately one hour. Your child will be asked to complete a series of tasks and activities that will indicate your child's readiness for kindergarten. The kindergarten screening results which will be mailed home to you, are utilized to assist with class placements and to help us plan the best educational program possible for your child.

**Kindergarten Placement**

Student classroom assignments will be developed based upon a combination of factors. These will include balance of student population by gender, age, performance as indicated from the Kindergarten Screening and special education student needs. It is our goal to develop heterogeneous communities of learners for each of our classrooms. Should you feel that there are exceptional aspects to your child's growth and development, pre-school education, familial custody issues, or transportation needs, please feel free to contact me by **May 1st**. In this way, we can plan for September placements.

Educating your child is a team effort, and we look forward to working side-by-side with you to ensure the best possible educational experience for your child. Welcome to Kindergarten! We look forward to meeting you and welcoming your children into the Dogwood student community.

Sincerely,

*Renee Carpenter*

Renee Carpenter  
Dogwood Principal