

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - 1

## our schools 2016-2017

**What is the first day of school?** Monday, August 29, 2016

**What is the last day of school?** Wednesday, June 8, 2017

**How can I find dates and times for different school activities?** Check your school website and **watch for** and **ask to see** notices and calendars that your child brings home.

**What is the district's student holiday schedule?** November 24-25 (early dismissal Nov. 23); December 19-30; and April 10- 19, The district calendar is on the left on all district and school webpages.

**Where can I find special information of closing, delay or other school emergency?** The first place to look is on the district website - on the right side of the screen - a "district alert" section will be active in the case of breaking news. As long as your information is current, you'll receive phone and/or email notification to be sure you're informed about emergencies and school specific info. Local radio and television stations also partner with Dare County Schools to get the word out.

**Where can I find the district's and individual school contacts?** Complete listings of schools, principals and central office staff are listed on the district website: choose "Contact Us" at the top left of the main page.

**Where can I find testing dates and information?** On the website! Find "Central Services," "Instruction" and choose "Accountability." As soon as dates are firm, you'll find it there. The list is frequently updated.

**When do report cards and progress reports come out?** Check the district calendar online! It's posted in the left navigation menu on the main page. Any calendar adjustments are noted and well publicized throughout the system, on the web, and in local papers.

**What are DCS' policies and regulations?** You can find the Dare County Board of Education's Policies and Regulations listed online - jump from the homepage to the "Board of Education" link to find.

**When does the Board of Education meet?** The BOE typically schedules regular monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. The schedule is posted on the website under "Board of Education" in "2016-2017 Board Meetings." Special meetings are noted in this section, find the agenda etc in Board Documentation..

## FOOD!

**How much are meals at school?** K-12 breakfast: \$1.25; reduced priced breakfast is free due to state funding; full priced paid lunch k-5 \$2.75; full priced paid lunch 6-12 \$3; reduced priced lunch 40¢. Choose to prepay your child's meal and monitor his/her selections online @ [k12paymentcenter.com](http://k12paymentcenter.com).

**What's on the menu?** Students are given a print version of the monthly school menus, and it is also available on the district website - find "Menus" on the left.

**What time is breakfast available?** Generally 15 minutes before first bell - varies somewhat per school. If the bus is late, students who normally have breakfast at school are given the opportunity to eat breakfast.

**My child may qualify for free and reduced lunch, how do I apply?** Applications are mailed to each student's home before school begins; new students receive applications on enrollment during the school year. Applications are also available on the DCS website: look for "Central Services" and choose "School Nutrition" for the form. **You can apply anytime during the school year if your situation changes.**

**Will my child's classmates know if my child is receiving free or reduced priced meals?** Absolutely not! Students are not identifiable as receiving either free or reduced meals; **all students use a lunch number when moving through the line.**

**How long will it take before I know if my application for free and reduced meals has been approved?** Turn around time after your application has been submitted is usually much faster than the allowed 10-day window.

**Remember, every student needs a medical form filled out to be able to receive any type of medication, even over the counter products at school. The form is available online under "Parents Connect," then "Forms and Parent Resources" and "Student Forms." This and other essential forms arrive at home with your student in the Code of Student Conduct. Please sign and return all forms right away.**

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS -2

## student needs

**Where do I find bus scheduling information?** On the district website - refer to "Central Services" & click on "Transportation." Schedules are available at your child's school in August prior to the beginning of school. **If you have moved since the previous school year, or would like to make special bus stop arrangements, please visit your child's school as soon as possible to make a written change/request.**

**What information do I need to bring with me when I register my child with the district?** A detailed list is available on the district's website. Look for "Parents Connect" on the homepage and "Register for School" you'll find it in other places too, but that's a quick way to get there. Generally, call the school before you plan to go, and have your child, his/her birth certificate, immunization (shot) record, and proof of residence.

**Will my child wear a uniform at school?** School uniforms are not required. School dress codes are outlined in the district's Code of Student Conduct. Each student is provided with a copy of the COSC and it's also available on the website: under "Board of Education" choose "Policies and Regulations" for the "Code of Student Conduct."

**When is kindergarten registration held?** Each spring; dates and times differ at each school. These registrations are widely advertised. **Parents are encouraged to register their child/ren for school as soon as they are of school age or enter the district.**

**Does DCS offer English as a Second Language (ESL) classes?** Every Dare County school serves ESL students.

**Who handles school lunch concerns and menu questions?** Contact the Assistant to the Director of Child Nutrition at 480-8888 x 1921.

**Who handles health issues at school?** Each school has a full time school nurse on each campus. If a nurse must be out of the building, arrangements are made in advance to serve students' medication needs. Many school staff and faculty are CPR certified. **Remember, every student needs a signed medical form to be able to receive any type of medication, even over the counter formulas at school. The form is available online in "Parents Connect" and "Forms and Parent Resources" and "Student Forms."**

**How do I find information about specific curriculum?** The district's website has a link to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) curriculum guides. Look for "Instruction" under "Central Services." DPI's website has many helpful parent resources.

**My child has not been successful in traditional high schools and the usual high school extracurriculars. Are there options?** The Dare County Alternative School, located at MHS, is an option for students in grades 9-12. If a student graduates from DCAS, he or she participates in the graduation ceremony as designated by the student's attendance zone and receives a diploma from the Dare County Alternative School. For more information, contact your child's school counselor.

## Our Community

**Where is the nearest library?** The Dare County Library has branches in Kill Devil Hills, Manteo, and Hatteras Village. The card catalog can be checked through the website [www.earlibrary.org](http://www.earlibrary.org).

**My organization is planning an event that might interest your staff. How do I let them know about it? or My business would like to offer a discount to school employees. Whom do I call?** Contact the district's Community Relations Coordinator, 480-8888, x 1931.

**Where can I find information on how to apply to the district for employment?** Online! From the district's homepage, choose "Personnel" and click on "Employment Opportunities."

**Who is my contact about substitute teaching?** Effective Teacher Training (ETT) is a required course before substituting in Dare County Schools. Training sessions are promoted on the district's website and in local papers. Conducted collaboratively by College of the Albemarle Dare Campus and the district, the course is typically offered in September and again mid-year. The contact is Lara Parks @ 475-9250.

**Can I rent a room in one of your schools for a meeting? Whom do I contact? or I would like to distribute fliers on campuses, who do I contact?** For facilities, contact Dr. John Donlan 480-8888 x 1909; for fliers, contact Terry McGinnis, 480-8888 x 1927.

**How can I get involved in Dare County Schools?** Each school has an active Parent Teacher organization, and your child's teacher may invite parent/community participation on several levels. If you have a particular expertise or wish to speak to students about travel, career, or other life experiences/skill, you are welcome to contact a school near you. *Thanks!*