

Frequently Asked Questions about Ashford School 2021-2022

(Updated on Tuesday, September 7th)

What is the school doing about helping students with reading and math?

We hired middle school math and reading intervention teachers. This will allow us to meet the learning needs of all students even better than in the past. Grade level teams have weekly meetings to discuss data from student assessments, including SBAC scores, and how to adjust classroom instruction to make sure that every student is appropriately challenged.

What is the Arabic program?

We are fortunate to have been selected to have a visiting teacher from Egypt this school year. This is a **grant-funded** program that may be a one-year opportunity, but we believe that students will benefit greatly and increase their global awareness while learning from an excellent international teacher. This class is not intended to result in mastery of the Arabic language, however some students may be inspired to learn more in the future.

Is Arabic taking the place of Spanish?

No, students are still getting as much Spanish instruction as in previous years. If we did not have this Arabic program, students would have a Wolf Den (study hall) every other day.

Do you have a German program?

We have a partner school in Germany called the Einstein Gymnasium in Rheda-Wiedenbrück, Germany. We traveled there with 20 students in the Fall of 2019, and they came here to Ashford, CT in Spring of 2020. Due to the COVID pandemic, we have not yet been able to run the student exchange yet again. However, we did send over our music teacher, Mrs. Podolski in Fall 2020, marking the beginning of a teacher exchange program. We have been fortunate to have German teaching interns for the past two years and now again this year starting in October. Since the interns are not certified teachers, we do not have actual German courses but instead offer enrichment opportunities.

Is the World language and culture program at Ashford School optional?

No, it is an important part of our curriculum this year in grades 5-8. However, some students may be exempted from World language and culture classes due to scheduled reading or math interventions.

What is the up-to-date information regarding drop-off and pick-up?

It is very important for safety to not have cars backed up on route 89 in the morning and afternoon! Below, please note the earliest times for pulling into the school parking lot.

Busses drop off and pick up students at the front of the school. Students in grades K-8, who are driven to and from school, enter and exit the building from the back of the school. For grades K-3,

vehicles pull into the back circle. For grades 4-8, vehicles drive around the perimeter of the back parking lot and stop beside the basketball court. Students may not enter school prior to 8:10 a.m. Please do not arrive prior to 8:08 a.m., as it causes unsafe traffic issues on route 89.

If picking up your child(ren) at the end of the day, please do not arrive at the school prior to 3:15 p.m., as it causes unsafe traffic issues on route 89. PK students should be dropped off at 8:25 and picked up at 11:10 a.m. (for morning session) and dropped off at 12:15 p.m. and picked up at 3:25 p.m. (for afternoon session) at the front of the school after the busses pull out. **On Tuesday, September 7th, we added an extra safety measure that will allow more cars in the back lot and help prevent the backup of vehicles on route 89. Upon entering the circle for grades K-3, there are two lanes that will merge into one lane for the section where students get into cars. Upon traveling the perimeter of the lot for grades 4-8, there are additional areas to wait between the last two rows of cars. In both areas, please use both lanes and then merge alternating one at a time.**

We appreciate everyone doing their part to ensure smooth and safe transportation for our students!

Can we bring food in for my child's birthday or celebrations?

We will not be allowing any food items to celebrate birthdays. There are many non-food items that could be considered. Follow the link below for numerous ideas.

<https://cpschools.com/school-nutrition-services/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2017/07/Non-food-celebrations-and-reward-ideas-for-elementary-schools-2.pdf>

Can I volunteer at the school?

Not at this time in the school.

Will there be sports or after-school activities?

Yes, sports start on Wednesday, September 8th. Information about other after-school activities will be out soon.