

New Families to CRES

Each year we welcome a large cohort of new students, from those entering PreK and Kindergarten to students in Grades 1-4 that have moved to our community.

Getting started with PreK and Kindergarten is a new and exciting time filled with wonder and lots of questions, for both children and adults. Whether you are sending your oldest child, or you've been a part of our school community before, we all want this first school experience to be positive, welcoming, and safe. Sending your child to school for the first time is a big deal! We take that responsibility seriously and we're here to support your child, and you, during this transition. One way we provide that support is through our Orientation Day.

Pre-K and Kindergarten Orientation from 7:30-8:45 a.m.

Pre-K and Kindergarten parents/guardians and students will meet your child's teacher, bus driver and classmates at the morning Orientation.

New Parent Orientation (ALL new parents/guardians) from 7:45-8:45 a.m.

We hold a new parent orientation on the morning of September 5th in the cafeteria at CRES.

Multiage Families

Multiage Visit, September 5th between 7:30-8:45 a.m.

A chance for students and families to stop in and see the classroom, classmates and teachers. Multiage families should feel free to drop by anytime during that time. **Multiage Kindergarten students** will have their first day of school on Thursday, September 7th.

All CRES Families

15-minute Introduction & Information meetings (all students/families)

Teachers will hold these 1:1 meetings with all families throughout the day.

Look for a separate email this week with a link to schedule the 1:1 meeting with your child's teacher.

Please review the event-specific memos that follow to learn more about the orientation events.

Pre-K Orientation

Tuesday, September 5th is Orientation Day.

PreK family 1:1 meetings will take place on September 5th AND 6th.

The first official day of school for **PreK** students is Thursday, September 7th.

An exciting part of the Orientation Day for all Pre-K students is the “practice” ride to school on the bus. CRES PreK students, older siblings and parents are welcome to ride the bus. **Unfortunately, only school-age children are allowed to ride the bus for safety reasons**, so younger siblings and other family members are welcome to meet you at the school.

Parents, your child’s bus driver will be contacting you before Orientation to verify that your child will be riding the bus to school and to inform you of the approximate pickup time on the 5th and on school days. This bus ride is a great way to experience your child’s bus route firsthand and practice bus safety.

Where: Camden-Rockport Elementary School
11 Children’s Way, Rockport, ME 04856

When: Tuesday, September 5th from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Who: PreK students and their families

Transportation: School bus rides to and from CRES for your PreK student and parents. We collect bus information through the Transportation Form during the registration process. The information we collect will prompt a call from your bus driver to confirm the pick-up time and location.

Parent Schedule: **7:30:** Parents/Guardians and students arrive on buses.

7:45 – 8:15: Parents to the **cafeteria** for an informational meeting.

- Presentation by administrators Chris Walker-Spencer and Katie Bauer
- Camden Rockport School Alliance, Food Service and Transportation director introductions

8:15 – 8:45: Parent Meet & Greet

- Explore PreK woods classroom and trails
- Socialize with other families
- Meet our Transportation and Food Service Directors
- Meet CRSA representatives
- Meet CRES building administrators

8:45: Parents to PreK playground to meet their child

9:00: Parents and children to the bus loop to board buses and ride home

PreK Schedule: **7:30:** Arrival at school – enter the PreK playground in the bus loop

7:40 – 8:15: PreK teacher leads group activity on the PreK playground

8:15 – 8:45: Intervention teachers lead group activities

8:45: Parents to PreK playground to meet their child

9:00: Parents and children to the bus loop to board buses and ride home

Kindergarten Orientation

Tuesday, September 5th is Orientation Day, and the first day of school is Wednesday, September 6th for **single-grade Kindergarten** students.

Please note: **PreK** and **Multiage Kindergarten students have a different starting day** than single-grade Kindergarten classrooms: (Thursday, September 7th.)

An exciting part of this day for all Kindergarten students is the “practice” ride to school on the bus. CRES Kindergarten students, older siblings and parents are welcome to ride the bus. **Unfortunately, only school-age children are allowed to ride the bus for safety reasons**, so younger siblings and other family members are welcome to meet you at the school.

Parents, your child’s bus driver will be contacting you before Orientation to verify that your child will be riding the bus to school and to inform you of the approximate pickup time on the 5th and on school days. This bus ride is a great way to experience your child’s bus route firsthand and practice bus safety.

Where: Camden-Rockport Elementary School
11 Children’s Way, Rockport, ME 04856

When: Tuesday, September 5th from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Who: PreK and Kindergarten students and their families

Transportation: School bus rides to and from CRES for your Kindergarten student and parents. We collect bus information through the Transportation Form during the registration process. The information we collect will prompt a call from your bus driver to confirm the pick-up time and location.

Parent Schedule: **7:30:** Parents/Guardians and students arrive on buses.

7:45 – 8:15: Parents to the **cafeteria** for an informational meeting.

- Presentation by administrators Chris Walker-Spencer and Katie Bauer
- Camden Rockport School Alliance, Food Service and Transportation director introductions

8:15 – 8:45: Parent Meet & Greet

- Explore outdoor classrooms and trails
- Socialize with other families
- Meet our Transportation and Food Service Directors
- Meet CRSA representatives
- Meet CRES building administrators

8:45: Parents to playground to meet their child

9:00: Parents and children to the bus loop to board buses and ride home

Kdg Schedule: **7:30:** Arrival at school – enter through the lobby and go to the playground

7:40: Homeroom teachers lead group activity on the playground

8:15: Specials Teachers lead group activities

8:45: Parents to playground to meet their child

9:00: Parents and children to the bus loop to board buses and ride home

Grades 1-4 New Parent/Guardian Orientation

We're so glad you're joining us at CRES. We want this transition to be a smooth one and we have time devoted to answering your questions and introducing you to staff members at CRES. Your family will select a 15-minute block to meet the homeroom teacher for each of your children – we'll email a link to sign up through our conference scheduling website: PTC Fast. We also offer a meeting just for parents/guardians, detailed below. Students, and parents, often feel a lot better about the first day of school after attending these orientation activities. Additionally, tours of CRES will be offered at 9:30, 10:30, 11:30 and 12:30.

Where: Camden-Rockport Elementary School
11 Children's Way, Rockport, ME 04856

When: Tuesday, September 5th

Who: Parents/Guardians of new students in Grades 1-4 at CRES

Parent Schedule:

7:30 – 8:15:

Parents to the CRES **cafeteria** for an informational meeting

- Presentation by administrators Chris Walker-Spencer and Katie Bauer
- Camden Rockport School Alliance, Food Service and Transportation director introductions

8:15 – 8:45:

Parents Meet & Greet

- Explore woods classrooms and trails
- Socialize with other families
- Meet our Transportation and Food Service Directors
- Meet CRSA representatives
- Meet CRES building administrators

Student/Parent Handbook

Please review our Student/Parent Handbook online at https://cres.fivetowns.net/about_cres/student_handbook before school begins to learn more about our philosophy, practices, and policies at CRES. It's important that all families know and understand our school rules, policies, and safety practices.

* If you need a print version, please call the Main Office at 236-7809 and we will send a copy home.

School Year Calendar

The 2023-2024 CRES School Calendar is easy to find on our website right at the bottom of the home page at <https://cres.fivetowns.net/home>. Please make note of:

- monthly Early Release Days
- Workshop Days when there is no school for students
- Parent-Teacher Conference Days (no school for students)
- both half-day Early Release Half Days on the Fridays before February and April vacation.

Communication / Open House Shift

I believe that when we work together, and communicate clearly, we can achieve great things. In that spirit, please strive to participate in our many family events in September. We offer these events instead of a traditional open house.

- 1:1 student/family meetings with homeroom teachers – on September 5th
- Guided building tours – available on Sept. 5th at 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30
- Family math/literacy night in late September – details forthcoming!

Also, look for our monthly CRES Dory News updates in your email inbox, and please “like” our [Facebook page](#).

Flex Time at CRES

As we expanded our outdoor educational opportunities for students, our staff took a hard look at our schedule. We realized a few things:

- We are one of the few public schools in the state that featured two recesses per day.
- Two recesses per day helped meet our goals around outdoor time and movement for students but five grade levels trying to access our playground twice per day led to overcrowding and limited our scheduling flexibility elsewhere.
- Holding a single recess per grade on the playground provides students more space and reduces the number of playground incidents.
- Designating a flex time provides more time for teachers to engage students in deeper learning outdoors while still providing the opportunities for movement and exploration that students need.
- Flex time allows teacher teams to work with the small percentage of students who engage in work refusal during the school day. One teacher per team will support any of those students during flex time so they can complete their work. This is a different issue than students who **can't** do the work.

Preparing for School Each Day

Parents should send students to school with the following items each day:

1. **Water Bottle with a screw top.** We no longer have any drinking fountains at CRES. Instead, we have water bottle rapid-fill stations in each grade level. The water bottle should be washed/sanitized at home each night.
2. **Optional**
 - **Sunscreen/Bug Spray**
 - **The school does not supply them, and staff may not apply these products.**
 - **Apply sunscreen** to your child each morning as you deem necessary. We will be outdoors more than ever.
 - **Apply bug spray/tick repellent** each morning as you see fit. We are spending more time outside, including in the woods.
 - **A sun hat**