Totowa Board of Education

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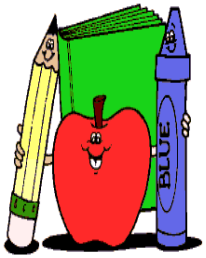
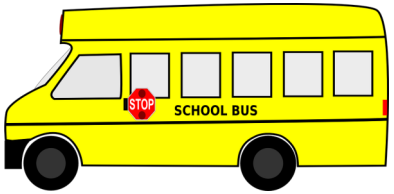
Kindergarten Teachers

Tina DeRose-Room 111
Tamara Emont 211
Juliana Fiore-Room 112
Denise Porta-Room 109
Marlana Torres-Room 110



Totowa Board of Education Administration

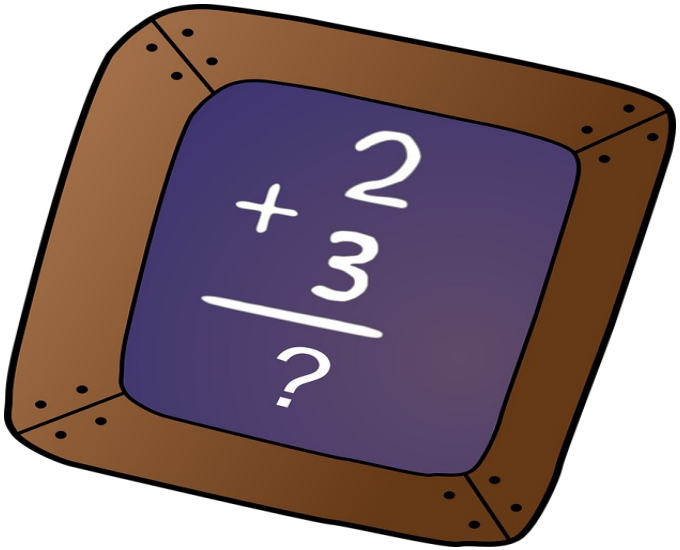
Patricia Capitelli—*Superintendent*
Joseph Compel—*Principal, Memorial School*
David Bower—*Principal, Washington Park School*
Lauren Terranova—*Director of Special Education*
Timothy Tracy—*Vice-Principal, Washington Park School*
Vincent Varcadipane—*School Business Administrator*
Domenic Picarelli—*Assistant Business Administrator*
Douglas Chirico—*Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds*



Totowa Borough Schools

All About Kindergarten

Memorial School



Memorial School
"Where Little People Learn Big Things"
294 Totowa Road, Totowa, New Jersey 07512
Phone: 973-956-0010—Fax: 973-553-2257
E-mail: Joseph.Compel@totowa.k12.nj.us

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to Memorial School! Starting kindergarten is a very significant time in your child's life and in your lives as well. The Memorial School staff and I wish to assure you that we will do everything we can to make your child's kindergarten start and kindergarten year the best possible.

Beginning with the first day of school, your child will be involved in many exciting, educational opportunities. The goal of our program is to meet your child's needs not only intellectually, but also physically, socially, and emotionally. We will work diligently to provide your child with wonderful experiences that will help them develop a positive self-concept and attitude toward learning.

The Memorial School staff and I look forward to working with you and your child in the upcoming years. If you ever have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Joseph Compel
Principal

Reminders From Memorial School Staff

- **Absence:** Please **report absence on the parent portal**, **before 9:00 A.M. or email: msattendance@totowa.k12.nj.us**
- **Labels:** Please label coats, jackets, lunchboxes, and back-packs
- **Bus Tags:** Your child should wear a bus number tag for the **first two (2) weeks.** This will be supplied by your child's teacher.
- **Notes:** Label and seal all notes in an envelope… especially those containing money. The following information should be on the envelope:
  - ***Child's first and last name***
  - ***Teacher's name and room number***
  - ***Purpose***
- **Daily Transportation Plans:** You must send a note addressed to your child's teacher on the morning that a change in transportation will take place. We will not release a student to others or allow a student to change transportation plans without this note. Some valid reasons for a change of transportation are:
  - ***A different person will be picking up your child.***
  - ***Your child will be walking instead of taking the bus.***
  - ***Your child will be going home with another student.***

Walkers are not permitted to ride a bus and bus students may only ride their **assigned** bus.

Reminders From the Kindergarten Staff

1. When **changing transportation plans** for your child (temporarily or permanently) please notify the teacher in writing immediately.

2. **Your child will only be released to you or the person that you designated in your registration forms.** If there is going to be a change, please send a note to the teacher on that day.

3. Please **be at the bus stop** at the end of the day.

4. If you are meeting your child after school, please meet him/her in front of Memorial School **no later than 3:10 P.M.**

5. Know that:

We care about your child!

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome!!!!!

As educators, we would like to stress the importance of your child's first year in school. In this booklet, you will find ideas and activities for you to use when you interact with your child.

If you spend a few minutes each day doing these things with your child, it will help your son/daughter be better prepared to enter kindergarten. A child who is well prepared is more likely to make faster progress and to find greater success in his/her new school environment.

With your assistance, we will make this year a positive growing experience for your child.

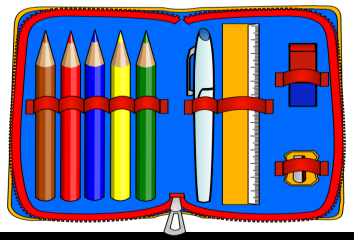
Sincerely,

Tina DeRose
Tamara Emont
Juliana Fiore
Denise Porta
Marlana Torres

Kindergarten Teachers

- **Ways Parents Can Help with Reading**
  1. Read to your child.
  2. Let your child see you reading.
  3. Ask your child questions about stories and answer their questions.
  4. Play both digital and traditional word games and reading games with your child.
  5. Visit your public library regularly.
  6. Encourage your child to write and draw.
- **Here are some things your child should know…**
  1. First and last name
  2. Address
  3. Age and birth date
  4. Telephone number
- **Your child should be able to…**
  1. Tie shoes
  2. Use a tissue (cover your coughs!)
  3. Button and zip
  4. Put on boots & coats...buckle and unbuckle
  5. Name the body parts, such as head, eye, nose, elbow, knee, chest, arm...etc.
- **Activities for Kindergarten:**

  Group discussion, songs, calendar and weather, language arts, physical education, art, music, steam, financial literacy, recess, mathematics, social-emotional learning, family life education, social studies, health, science, technology education, career awareness, study skills infusion, and fire safety.



- **Clothing:**

Selected articles of clothing for outdoors should be easily fastened and unfastened by the child. Please dress your child for suitable activities and **label** all articles of clothing. The district dress code is included in the Parent Handbook which can be found on the district website:

totowa.k12.nj.us

- **Kops 4 Kids:**

Students enrolled in Kops 4 Kids will be dismissed directly to the program at dismissal. For more information on the *Before and After School Program* at Memorial School, please call 973-809-4311.

Posted "Important Announcements", emergency school closings, and general district information can be found on our website at:

www.totowa.k12.nj.us

We will also use the Notification Alert Automated Phone System for important information.

- **Lunch & Snack:**

Students are scheduled for a snack everyday. Please send your child with a drink and snack everyday. You and your child can decide if you want to purchase a meal from the menu provided by our school food services, Pomptonian, or bring a lunch from home. Information regarding selections and prices will be posted on the Parent Portal and the district's website. You may pay through www.payschoolscentral.com, a convenient cashless payment system.

- **www.payschoolscentral.com:**

Go cashless. The school cafeteria offers an online payment system that speeds services for all students. Log on to www.payschoolscentral.com and sign up now. You can also visit the district website at www.totowa.k12.nj.us for more information.

- **Special Subjects:**

Each class will have Art, Financial Literacy, Health/Social Emotional Learning, Physical Education, STEAM, and World Language.

- **Scheduled Conferences:**

Any time a conference is desired, please call or email the teacher. Messages can be left for teachers in their voice mailboxes.

- **School Hours:** (9:00 A.M.—3:15 P.M.)

Students should arrive to school **NO EARLIER than 8:45 A.M.**

- **Attendance:**

Regular and punctual attendance are important habits for your child to learn and establish from the very first day of kindergarten. However, when your child is ill, they should not attend school.

A written note must accompany the child when he/she returns to school from an absence. Please use the parent portal to report absences **or email: msattendance@totowa.k12.nj.us** whenever your child is absent. **However, if we do not receive notification on the parent portal, or an email, the attendance administrative assistant will call until contact is made.**

Main Office: You may reach the main office/principal's office at 973-956-0010 ext. 1101.

- **Arrival and Dismissal Procedures:**

Students who are transported to and from school by car or who walk, must enter the school through the front door nearest to Elizabeth Place. At the end of the day, parents should wait on the sidewalk in front of Memorial School. Teachers will escort the students to the front steps and dismiss the students individually. Students in Rooms 109 and 110 will exit by the doorway nearest William Place. Students in Rooms 111, 112, and 211 will exit by the doors nearest Elizabeth Place. Cars will not be permitted to enter the school driveway.

- **Emergency Closing:**

When it becomes necessary to delay the opening of school, school will begin at 10:00 A.M. Children should not come to school before 9:45 A.M. Emergency closings, once school is in session, are extremely rare, but if we close, dismissal will be 1:15 P.M.
Experience has shown us that the roads are generally in better condition at 3:15 P.M. than at 1:15 P.M.

For inclement weather closings, the Notification Alert Automated Phone System will call the phone number that you submitted on your child's registration form. You can also check our district website, www.totowa.k12.nj.us or call the district phone number 973-956-0010 and choose the first prompt (school closing).

- **Bus Safety**

Those children who are entitled to ride the bus should have received their bus transportation information via email. Transportation tags will be given to your child to wear for the first two weeks of school to familiarize the staff, as well as the children, with their bus numbers.

Buses will discharge and pick up students on Totowa Road directly in front of Memorial School everyday. Bus monitors will be on duty to assist with supervision.

It is advisable for you to familiarize your child with the neighborhood and the children from your area. This helps assure the child when he/she sees a familiar face and landmark. For many student, this will be their first experience riding a bus, so careful instructions should be given regarding bus conduct.

- **Change of Transportation:**

If your child is transported by bus and is going to be picked up on a particular day, **we must have a note to inform us of that change.** Unless a note is received, your child will board the school bus as usual. A note is also necessary for walkers, when a different person than previously indicated is picking up your child, regardless of who is listed on the emergency contact list.