

Natick Public Schools

ASAP AND EARLY RISERS PROGRAM

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January 6, 2021

Dear ASAP and Early Risers Families,

Between **Monday**, **February 7** and **Sunday**, **February 13** all currently enrolled families who plan to return next year must re-enroll **online** for 2022-23. This is also the time to register any new children in your family and request schedule changes, including after school days for children currently enrolled in Early Risers only. If your child is moving on to one of our middle school programs, the process is the same. Because we use a lottery when demand exceeds space, you can register anytime within this window. If you do not plan to re-enroll, email me at asap@natickps.org to avoid repeated reminder emails.

Two Changes for 2022-23

- 1. **Schedule Required for Early Risers:** Early Risers enrollment will be like After School. Families will select a schedule; children may only attend on those days. The monthly cost will be the equivalent of no higher than the current \$14/child/day, with a discount for 3 5 days/week. We will have a final tuition schedule in March. During re-enrollment, register for the care you need. You have until May 20 to change your schedule without penalty. See FAQ below for more information.
- Minimum 2-Day Enrollment: There will be a minimum 2-day enrollment required for Early Risers and ASAP After School.

To re-enroll, go to www.ezchildtrack.com/natickasap/parent, Returning Parents Sign In during the re-enrollment period and enter your Email and Password to sign in. Email asap@natickps.org if you have trouble signing in. Click here for online registration instructions.

Please note:

- You are guaranteed your child's current schedule for 2022-23, as long as you re-enroll online between
 February 7 and February 13 and remain enrolled for that schedule through the end of this school year. We
 may not be able to accommodate all schedule change requests, requests of Early Risers only families to add
 after school days, or add new siblings.
- 2. If requests for additional days, new sibling registrations, or Early Risers exceed our available space, we will use a lottery system to allocate the slots.
- 3. To use Early Risers, you must select that activity, and a schedule, during re-enrollment.

Natick Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

- 4. When you re-enroll, you will be charged a \$200 deposit (per family) to hold your space for 2022-23. This charge will appear on your May invoice and must be paid by May 20. 2021-22 deposits will be released back into accounts in June 2022. The 2022-23 deposit will reserve your space for next year.
- 5. Our 22-23 tuition rates are not yet final. Feel free to review our <u>current rates</u> for reference, with the understanding that there may be increases for the coming year.
- 6. Families will receive their Fall 2023 enrollment status via email by 2/25. See all Registration Dates to Remember here.

If you do not re-enroll online by Sunday, February 13, your child's 2022-23 space will be available to waitlist and new families.

Registration Fees:

- If you are re-enrolling a currently enrolled child, no registration fee is required.
- If you are registering a new, additional child, the \$15 sibling registration fee will be added to your May invoice and be due by May 20.

Deposit:

- All families will be charged a \$200 deposit (per family) for 2022-23. This fee will be added to your May invoice and be due by May 20.
- If your 2021-22 deposit is still in your account, it will be applied to your account in your June 2022.
- If you reduced your number of contracted days or withdrew a child from ASAP before the end of the school
 year, your 2021-22 deposit was removed from your account and will not be applied in June.

Financial Aid:

If you receive financial aid from Natick Public Schools, you must reapply each year. The 2022-23 application forms will be available in May or June at the NPS website and NPS offices at Natick Town Hall. Completed applications must be submitted to the NPS Business Office - not the ASAP office. Please *do not wait* to re-enroll; do so now, and if your financial aid status changes for the 2022-23 school year, we will modify it at that time.

Please review the Frequently Asked Questions below and contact me at asap@natickps.org with any additional questions!

Sincerely,

Megan Cap-Renzi Director, Natick ASAP

Email: asap@natickps.org

Frequently Asked Questions:

REGISTRATION

Why am I having trouble registering online?

- 1. If you are using a phone or a tablet, you may need to scroll to the bottom of the sign-in screen and click on "Switch to Desktop Version."
- 2. You may be too early! Re-enrollment does not begin until February 7.

How do I add an additional sibling during re-enrollment?

During re-enrollment, on the Register My Children page, scroll below currently enrolled children to Add Child.

Can I re-enroll using a phone or tablet?

The EZChildTrack.com online registration system was designed for laptop or desktop computers. If you are registering from a smartphone or tablet, you may need to scroll to the bottom of the sign-in screen and click on "Switch to Desktop Version."

We do not have a computer at home to re-enroll online.

We switched to a lottery for just this reason. Online registration within a window of time, instead of first-come, first-serve, allows time to visit a local library, a family member, friend, neighbor, or other resource to register online.

Why am I being asked to select days of the week for Early Risers?.

For years, Early Risers has operated as a "drop-in" program. Unfortunately, Early Risers attendance has dropped in recent years, and plummeted during COVID. To keep Early Risers open, starting in 22-23, **Early Risers enrollment will be like After School. Families select a weekly schedule. Children only attend on their scheduled days.**Families will be charged by month for their selected weekly schedule, regardless of attendance.

We are still developing a tuition model. The monthly cost will be the equivalent of no higher than the current \$14/child/day, with a discount for a 3, 4, or 5 day schedule. We will have a final tuition schedule until March. **During re-enrollment, please register for the level of care you need.** You have until May 20 to reduce your schedule or withdraw without penalty.

I forgot to register for Early Risers or add a sibling.

Email <u>asap@natickps.org</u>. Registrations cannot be edited once submitted. We must delete your registration, after which you can resubmit.

ENROLLMENT

Will my child be re-enrolled for their current/most recent schedule next year?

We expect to honor children's current or most recent (for those previously enrolled) schedule for 2022-23, as long as you register between the dates above. We may not be able to accommodate all schedule change requests, requests of Early Risers only families to add after school days, or enroll all new siblings.

What if I request additional days for next year?

Current/previously enrolled ASAP families may request additional days before wait listed or new families, but we may not be able to accommodate all requests. If requests for additional days exceed our available space, we will use a lottery system to allocate the slots. We highly recommend that families consider other options for before and after school care, in the event that space at ASAP and Early Risers is not available.

What if I drop days between now and the end of the year?

We can only guarantee your child's space for next year if you remain enrolled for that schedule through June 2022. If you drop a day anytime before then, your child will no longer be enrolled for that day of the week in 22-23. They will be added to the waitlist.

If I register a sibling who is new to ASAP, is that child guaranteed a space?

Current ASAP families may register new siblings before waitlisted or new families, but we may not be able to accommodate all requests. If new sibling registrations exceed our available space, we will use a lottery system to allocate the slots. We highly recommend that families consider other options for before and after school care, in the event that space at ASAP and Early Risers is not available.

What if I don't know which days I need, or I'm flexible (ie - any two afternoons)?

In this case, select all days you may need care. You have until May 20 to reduce your schedule or withdraw without forfeiting your deposit. It is more difficult to request additional days later.

When will I find out my child's fall enrollment status?

We plan to contact all current families via email by February 25. See all Registration Dates to Remember here.

I received an email with the subject "Enrollment/Wait List Confirmation" and my child is only enrolled for some of the days we requested, or for Early Risers only.

If this happens, it means demand for some or all of the days you requested exceeded space. We use a lottery system in those cases. Children who we cannot enroll due to space are placed on our waitlist in their lottery order. Ex: If you registered for all five days of ASAP (After School) and for the Early Risers program, and your child is only enrolled for Fridays at ASAP (After School) and for the Early Risers program, they are on our waitlist for Monday through Thursday at ASAP.

If I need to drop a day from my child's schedule later, will I lose my deposit?



You have until May 20* to drop a day from next year's schedule without losing your deposit. After that, if you drop a day or withdraw, your 2022-23 deposit will be forfeited. See all Registration Dates to Remember here.

KINDERGARTNERS & NEW FAMILIES

Will my incoming kindergartner get a chance to visit ASAP before his/her first day?

Each year we hold an on-site kindergarten orientation for enrolled families on the Thursday of the first week of school. Enrolled families will receive details via email before the end of this school year.

What if my child is entering middle school?

The re-enrollment process and policies are the same for children headed to Kennedy or Wilson ASAP. Here is some general information about the differences between elementary ASAP and middle school ASAP:

Daily routine: The daily routines at Kennedy and Wilson ASAP are similar to our elementary sites. We also maintain the same minimum staff to child ratio of 1:13. Children arrive, check in, are served snack, and may choose from a variety of activities and participate in Homework Time. There are a few differences, however, that correspond with middle school students' increased desire for independence, evolving interests, and greater workload.

Dismissal from school to ASAP: In elementary school, classroom teachers keep track of their students' dismissal routine. In middle school, students are responsible for making their own way from their last class to the bus, to walk home, or to ASAP. We take attendance as children arrive, do a building all-call and contact parents if a child doesn't arrive to ASAP. However, dismissal can be confusing for new 5th graders. We encourage parents to support their new 5th graders in using organizational strategies to remember which days they go to ASAP, and which days they take the bus or walk home.

Checking out of ASAP for other activities: Once they have checked in to ASAP to confirm their attendance, middle school students may "check out" to attend an after school club, get help from a classroom teacher, go to the library, or participate in other after school activities within the building. Students indicate where they will be and must return at the expected time.

More homework means more Homework Time: Another change in middle school is the homework demands. Just as in elementary school, children and parents may jointly sign up for our Homework program. In middle school, we provide an hour of Homework Time on Mondays through Thursdays. Students unable to complete their work may return to home base to work at a quiet table.

More time to be social, but still plenty of activities: Many of our middle schoolers would be happy to spend the entire afternoon hanging out, chatting, and playing board games or drawing with friends. We provide extended periods of free play so when they are done with homework, students can relax if they choose. But we also provide

lots of engaging activities and clubs suited to their interests! Feel free to check out the <u>Wilson and Kennedy activity</u> <u>calendars</u> posted on our web page for an idea of some of the activities and clubs we have offered this year at Kennedy and Wilson ASAP.

Other questions?

See General Information, complete FAQ, tuition rates, parent handbook, and more at our web page: http://natickps.org/programs/asap.

If you don't find the answer there, email us anytime at asap@natickps.org!