

Denison Montessori Family Handbook: 2024 -2025



*DENISON
MONTESSORI*

Denison Montessori: Preparing students for their time and place

Denison Montessori has deep roots in the southwest Denver community. For over 30 years, we have been providing authentic Montessori education to ethnically, culturally and socio-economically diverse students in Denver Public Schools.

Denison is one of the only Montessori schools in Colorado to be part of a public-school system, making high-quality Montessori education accessible to all.



DENISON MONTESSORI QUICK FACTS

SCHOOL ADDRESS:	1821 S. Yates St. Denver, Colorado 80219
GRADES SERVED:	ECE3 - 6th
OFFICE PHONE:	720-424-8080
ATTENDANCE LINE:	720-424-8094
OFFICE FAX:	720-424-8105
SCHOOL WEBSITE:	http://denison.dpsk12.org
SCHOOL HOURS:	8:25 - 3:25 1st - 6th 8:30 - 3:15 ECE4 & Kindergarten 8:30 - 11:30 ECE3
OFFICE HOURS:	7:40 am – 3:40 pm
MASCOT:	The Great Bear, Ursa Major (Little Dippers and Big Dippers)

INTRODUCTION

WELCOME to Denison Montessori! We look forward to working as partners with your family and the community to provide your child the best possible education. We encourage active parental involvement. Your child's needs are best met through a positive and supportive relationship between home and school. Please visit school often! We also welcome parents as volunteers. We hope this handbook will provide you with useful information about school policies and procedures. Please refer to it whenever you have questions or concerns. We wish you and your child an exciting, productive and successful school experience at Denison!

Kind regards,

Natalie Fickes
Principal

Mission & Vision

Utilizing authentic Montessori practices, Denison strives to prepare students for their time and place by:

- Meeting children's physical, intellectual, social, emotional and academic needs
- Inspiring children to grow to their fullest potential and become contributing members of society
- Melding children's school, family and community experiences

At the heart of our school culture is our core values system:

Respect

Others,

Self, and

Environment

Our school is staffed by highly-educated, Montessori-trained professionals who support students using a whole-child perspective. The staff values each child as a unique individual and helps provide a safe, nurturing and challenging environment to support the child's learning journey – academically, socially and emotionally.

DPS Equity Statement: Racial and Educational Equity is our collective responsibility. We will achieve equity when we dismantle deeply rooted systems of oppression that have historically resulted in inequitable access and distribution of opportunities and resources for those who represent marginalized identities, including race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, language and ability. We will create conditions where we all belong, are included, have clear purpose (why) and have the autonomy to lead in our respective areas. By creating these conditions, we will eliminate the predictability of success or failure for our students and team members.

Denison Montessori's Definition of Educational Equity: Equity is always advocating for our students' diverse needs to feel empowered, safe, seen and heard. We honor our responsibility to listen to all voices and bring marginalized voices to the forefront.

Actions:

- Denison students go forth prepared to impact humanity and change the world
- Foster self-actualization and agency among our students
- Focus on a strength based rather than deficit based model.
- Shine a light on everyone in our community, promoting a global perspective, and preparing our students with courage and confidence to succeed in the world.

- Promote familial equity by developing equal understanding/participation among caregivers, especially those whose children are attending Denison as their neighborhood school and those who are new to Montessori
- Foster curiosity and open-mindedness among all who touch Denison such that we feel empowered to grow and succeed as individuals and as a whole; to self-advocate for our needs to continue to learn, and to engage with compassion and empathy to promote lifelong learning for all members of our community.

Denison Montessori's goals directly connect to DPS's identified priorities for the 2021-2022 school year.

- **Equity & Excellence:** Cultivate proactive partnerships for equity-based engagement between DPS staff and families.
- **Student Experience & Achievement:** Cultivate students' academic growth and development through a culturally and linguistically sustaining profile of a DPS graduate.
- **Student Experience & Achievement:** Create conditions for students to learn and thrive through whole-child support

Educational Philosophy

Montessori is an educational philosophy developed in the early 1900s by Dr. Maria Montessori, an Italian physician. It was her belief that children have a natural desire to learn, and with the right materials and environment, school could be a place where children are self-directed learners, collaborators and problem-solvers.

Montessori children make creative and independent choices in discovering the people, places and knowledge of the world. There is an emphasis on hands-on, personalized learning, self-expression and citizenship in a carefully crafted school environment of respect, peace and joy.

The Eight Principles of Montessori Education

1. Thinking and learning are enhanced by movement
2. Learning and well-being are improved when we have a sense of control over our lives
3. We learn best when we are interested in what we are learning
4. Tying extrinsic rewards to an activity – like money for reading or high grades for tests – negatively impacts motivation to engage in that activity when the reward is withdrawn
5. Children learn well from and with peers and joyfully participate in collaborative learning situations
6. Our learning is deeper and richer when learning is situated in meaningful contexts as opposed to abstract contexts
7. Respectful interactions are associated with more optimal child outcomes
8. Order, routine and ritual help children thrive.

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ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Denison Montessori is committed to providing a safe and secure school environment for all students. We believe students should be able to learn in an environment that is free from threat, harassment and any type of bullying behavior, including cyber-bullying. Denison Montessori is participating in the Safe and Welcoming Schools Bullying Prevention and Education Grant. As part of this grant, a teacher-driven committee has adopted the following definition of bullying:

- Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Examples of bullying include actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

Students who engage in any act of bullying are subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion, and referral to law enforcement.

If, at any time, your child feels unsafe at school, please contact their teacher, the Restorative Practices Coordinator, Jessica Jeong, and/or the principal right away. It is difficult for the school to intervene if we are unaware of situations occurring. If your child feels uncomfortable telling someone at school, they can contact Safe2Tell, a way in which students or parents can make an anonymous report. You can reach them at 1-877-542-SAFE or find more information at www.safe2tell.org

ATTENDANCE POLICY

According to the DPS Handbook for Families and Students, there are strategies and interventions that we as a school are responsible for implementing which encourage students to be at school all day, everyday, and on-time. Teachers will take attendance daily by 8:55. We understand that there are circumstances in which students are unable to attend school; however, we also know that when a student is absent, missed instructional time is impossible to replace.

Whether an absence is excused or unexcused, time away from the structured Montessori educational environment makes it more difficult to provide children with the best possible learning experience. Children with a low attendance pattern often fall behind academically and socially, which can result in increased difficulty in school. For this reason, we ask parents to please use the [Denison Montessori Calendar](#) to plan absences. It can also be found in Appendix A. **Denison will follow the traditional DPS calendar for the 2024-2025 school year for days off, holidays, and school closures with some additional days off for ECE3, ECE4, and Kindergarten..**

Due to much of our Montessori work being individualized in the classroom, it is difficult to know in advance what your child will be missing. *Therefore, any work that is missed will need to be made-up when the child returns to the classroom.* Exceptions to this will be made on a case by case basis for excused absences.

Excused Absence: An excused absence requires approval by both the parent or guardian and the school. In some cases, documentation from the parent may be required so that the school can excuse an absence. One example would include a note from a health care provider.

Examples of Excused Absences from the Colorado School Attendance Law:

- Temporary illness or injury;
- Physical, mental, or emotional disability;
- Religious observances
- Death in the immediate family
- School service absences (absences that occur as a result of participation in school activities that are authorized and pre-approved by the school leader)
- Absences due to suspension or expulsion

NOTE: Vacations taken while school is in session are not an exception and are therefore considered unexcused.

Outside of these required excused absences, an excused absence is an absence excused by **both** the parent/guardian **and** the school principal.

Chronic Absenteeism: Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing at least 10 percent of days in a school year for any reason, **including excused and unexcused absences** and suspensions. Denison Montessori's attendance team will be working with families to support students who are at risk for or deemed as being chronically absent.

Habitual Truancy: A student meets the definition for habitually truant when having 4 unexcused absences a month or 10 unexcused absences a year.

Chronic Tardiness: A student who is regularly late to school misses multiple opportunities to connect with peers, start the day receiving directions from the teacher, and access to individual and small group instruction. Denison Montessori's attendance team will be working with families to support students who are at risk for or are deemed chronically tardy.

Early Dismissal (Early Sign-Outs): It is strongly recommended that all appointments and extracurricular activities be scheduled outside school hours, in order to provide your student with the full instructional day. **All early dismissals for 1st - 6th grade students need to be completed by 3:05 so the office staff can assist with daily dismissal.** If you arrive at school within 5 minutes of your child's scheduled dismissal time, you will be asked to meet your child at their dismissal location rather than having the child called to the main office.

Please let us know how we can support your family in ensuring your child is at school every day.

Please call the Denison attendance line at 720-424-8094 by 9:15AM to report your child's absence. If you get our voicemail, please leave a message with your child's name, teacher and reason for absence. *This must be done for each day your child is out unless the absences are due to an extended illness.*

Attendance Notification Timeline

- ✓ **8:25** School day begins for 1st - 6th grade
- ✓ **8:45:** School day begins for ECE3, ECE4, & kindergarten
- ✓ **Please call the main office by 9:15 to report your child's absence for the day.**

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Birthday Celebrations: Classroom teachers will share information about how their classroom communities celebrate birthdays.

CLASSROOM PLACEMENT POLICY

Every spring the teachers look at the records of rising students who move from Primary to Lower elementary and Lower Elementary to Upper Elementary. They are assigned to a different teacher/guide at the next grade level. The classrooms must be equitable and balanced with regards to gender, ethnicity, special needs (e.g., Gifted and Talented, Special Education, English Language Learners), and achievement levels. Also taken into consideration are learning styles and the student's and teacher's personalities.

We are fortunate to have high caliber teachers at Denison who are extremely competent and able to meet the needs of our student population. Every effort is made to provide all students with a high quality education.

Parents may not request a specific teacher assignment. You may want to share information that might help us make classroom assignments. The information about a student should address educational needs (e.g., learning style, interests, areas of concern, strengths). All requests for consideration of a different placement must be made at least three days prior to the first day of school. Moving a child's classroom during the school year is extremely disruptive for the student and will only be done in exceptional circumstances.

COMMUNICATION AT DENISON

Communication is key to ensuring that there is a strong home-school connection. We will do our very best to ensure that we are communicating with you and would expect that, in return, you take the time to also communicate with us and utilize our website as often as possible.

Home to School Communication- Below are ways you can communicate with the school:

1. Contact the Office: The school's main telephone number is 720-424-8080. A secretary is on duty from 7:40 - 3:40. Outside of those hours, messages can be left on the voicemail. If your child is sick or absent, please leave a voicemail about their absence at **720-424-8094**.

2. Classroom Phones: Any phone call to the classroom will go directly to voicemail during the instructional day. Should there be an emergency and you need to speak with your child's teacher, kindly call the main office number and we can deliver the message immediately.

3. Email: You may email your child's teacher anytime. Please know, however, that teachers most likely will not have time during the instructional day to check email. Teachers will respond to your emails within a 24-48 hour (business day) time frame.

4. Teacher Check-Ins: You may be able to quickly check-in with a teacher during dismissal, but if you need more than 2-3 minutes, you should ask the teacher to schedule a phone call or a meeting.

5. ReachWell app: Teachers will share information about their classrooms using the app and you

may send them a message via the app.

In addition to the above "check-ins", teachers will be communicating with parents regularly regarding your child's academic progress. These forms of teacher communication include but are not limited to classroom updates (ReachWell messages, emails, etc), parent-teacher or student-led conferences (once or twice a year), report cards (semesters) and informal and formal communications.

6. Appointments with the Principal: We encourage parents and guardians to communicate questions and concerns to the appropriate staff first, before contacting administration. In the event that it is a general question or concern, Ms. Natalie works to answer emails within 24 hours of receiving them. For longer conversations, please call the main office and ask Ms. Alice or Ms. Idalia to schedule a meeting with Ms. Natalie. Your concerns are important, so please feel free to email Ms. Natalie at nfickes@dpsk12.net or make an appointment by calling 720-424-8080.

School to Home Communication- Below are the many ways our school communicates with families:

1. **ReachWell** We encourage all our families to download the ReachWell app through their phone's app store. Families can choose the language in which they would like to receive information. You can access the school's calendar and hot lunch menu through the ReachWell app, too!
2. **Social Media** We encourage everyone to "like" our Facebook Page **Denison Montessori School** and/or our Instagram account, **denisonmontessori**. We will be posting various things throughout the year and you don't want to miss out on the fun!
3. **Website:** Our website is another form of communication and will have updates and information for our school (calendars, schedules, etc). Ms. Natalie's weekly Denison Digest can also be found on the website. Check it out and bookmark it as a favorite!
Denison.dpsk12.org
4. **Classroom Newsletters:** Classroom newsletters may be shared via the Flyer app or email. You may also reach teachers by email, which they will share with you at the beginning of the school year.

EARLY RELEASE SCHEDULE

Prior to the pandemic, Denison Montessori had days called "Denison Days." These were additional teacher planning and professional development days that allowed teachers time to collaborate with each other, plan differentiated instruction, hold parent conferences, and engage in professional learning.

As we plan for the 2024-2025 school year, we want to provide an even better experience for our students and staff. A problem we are working to solve is that our staff members don't have time to collaborate, engage in professional development, and review student information that they use to inform their planning. This leads to staff members having to make difficult decisions about instruction and classroom priorities without always having the time and intentionality required.

To address this problem, Denison Montessori will implement early release days twice per month, with **dismissal at 1:00 on the first and third Wednesdays of each month**. This early release aligns with the day of the week that DMHS releases early. This additional time will allow our staff to be best prepared for student learning, give us more access to all staff members for professional learning, and promote teacher growth, in alignment with Denison's Unified Improvement Plan and Major Improvement Strategies. It also provides families with a day of the week they can use to schedule appointments or after school activities, decreasing the need for other missed instructional time for families. Discovery Link will have increased staffing on Wednesday afternoons as well as offer after school enrichments on Wednesday afternoons to decrease the burden on families.

Early Release dates

- August 21st
- September 4th, 18th
- October 2nd, 16th
- November 6th, 20th
- December 4th, 18th
- January 15th
- February 5th, 19th
- March 5th, 19th
- April 2nd, 16th
- May 7th, 21st

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Parents' emergency information is kept on file in the office. ***Please notify the school office if there is any change in address, telephone number, email address or emergency contact person so that we may be in contact with you at any time if necessary.*** It is very important for the safety and well-being of your child that you keep this information current. When a parent or adult listed on the emergency card cannot be contacted, the school may call the Denver Police Department and/or Denver Department of Human Services. If an adult who is NOT listed as an emergency contact comes to school to pick up your student, you will be contacted to verify this adult has your permission to pick up your student.

HEALTH POLICIES

Denison has a school nurse available three days a week and a Health Tech three days per week. The following guidelines are necessary to help ensure the health of our students and staff.

ECE documentation: The state of Colorado requires health paperwork to be completed annually for all ECE students. Please complete this paperwork promptly at the beginning of the year to ensure we are in compliance with all state guidelines.

Immunization: The state of Colorado requires evidence of immunization for school enrollment. A child entering school must meet requirements for each vaccine, or have a signed statement of exemption. Please ask for assistance from the school office if you have any questions.

HOMEWORK

Homework may serve as an important extension of the learning that takes place at school. It can provide practice that reinforces classroom learning and can provide opportunities for independent study, research and creative thinking. Parents can help their children by arranging a quiet, comfortable environment for students to work. ***Each classroom has its own homework policy.*** Please check with your child's teacher if you have any questions regarding the classroom homework policy.

INSTRUCTIONAL DAY, ASSESSMENTS, & REPORT CARDS

Highlights of our Montessori Instructional are:

- Montessori Environment
- Prepared kinesthetic materials with incorporated control of error, that allow the child to practice and perfect their skills using the materials as a control of error.
- Working and learning matched to the social development of the child
- Unified, research-based, internationally developed curriculum
- Integrated subjects and learning based on scientific observation of child development and developmental psychology
- Uninterrupted work cycles
- Multi-age classrooms
- Students active, talking, with periods of spontaneous quiet, freedom to move
- Process-focused assessment, skills checklists, mastery benchmarks

Students will receive differentiated and personalized instruction based on their individual needs in every classroom throughout the day. Differentiation includes support for struggling students and opportunities for enrichment for all students.

Assessments

Denison typically uses process-focused assessments, skills checklists, and mastery benchmarks. Standardized testing is used as required by the Colorado Department of Education and Denver Public Schools.. Denison teachers will use multiple measures of instructional data to determine student progress.

- Typically, all students in 3rd-6th grades take the state test in Reading, Writing, and Math. Fourth grade may take a state assessment in Social Studies and fifth graders take a state assessment in Science. We will follow guidance from DPS and the Colorado Department of Education concerning standardized testing for the 2022-2023 school year.
- English Language Learners take a yearly ACCESS assessment in grades K-6
- Math assessments: 3rd-6th complete interim math assessments two times per year.
- Language and Literacy: K-3 students are assessed to monitor their progress using mClass DIBELS, 4th-6th are assessed using DPS district interims two times/year. 4th-6th grade students may also be assessed with mClass DIBELS if they need support to reach grade level benchmarks in reading.
- ECE: ECE student progress is monitored through a tool called TS Gold. This progress will be shared with ECE families.

Report Cards & Parent-Teacher Conferences

Report cards are sent home twice a year, at the end of the first semester and the end of the second semester. Parent teacher conferences for the fall semester will take place in October.

Late winter conferences are held in February on an as needed basis only. We ask that all families only take one conference slot in order to ensure that each family can schedule a conference. If your family needs an exception to this policy, please contact Ms. Natalie.

Late Student Pick Up Policy

Students should be picked up promptly from school. Parents and those picking up students from school are asked to be sensitive to the extra burden placed on the school when students need to be supervised after the pick-up time. School dismissal is 3:15-3:25 for ECE4 and Kindergarten, and 3:25-3:35 for 1st-6th grade. **Students who are picked up more than 15 minutes after dismissal more than twice a semester will automatically be charged a late fee of \$5 for the first minute and \$1 per minute thereafter.** Payment will be expected at the time the student is picked up. If Denison staff members are not able to stay past the end of their work day at 3:40, your student may be taken to Discovery Link and your family will be responsible for the resulting fees.

Anyone picking up a child who is not on the child's pick-up authorization list will need to be approved through written authorization or a direct phone call from the parent/guardian before the child may leave school grounds. Permanent changes to the pick-up list need to be done in writing and submitted to Denison's main office. If you would like to have an older sibling pick up your 1st - 6th grade student and that sibling is younger than 18 years old, we need written authorization provided to Denison's main office. Everyone picking up a student must be prepared to show picture identification.

LEADERSHIP TEAMS

School Leadership Team (SLT): The SLT is the school-based team charged with ensuring that instructional and operational systems are in place to achieve student success. Responsibilities of the SLT include designing the student and teacher master schedules, professional development and instructional programming schedules. Representatives from the SLT include teachers, specialists, support teachers and the principal.

Collaborative School Committee (CSC): CSC is the steering committee for the school. It strives to enhance student achievement and school climate by engaging the school community in supporting school and district goals. The CSC provides guidance on and approval of the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP), as well as staffing allocations, school budget, and school program design. Representatives from the CSC include parents, teachers and the principal.

Denison CSC meetings are currently scheduled the first Tuesday of every month from 4:15 - 5:15, but the day and time may be revised at the beginning of the school year to meet the needs of the committee members. A portion of the agenda is reserved for community comment at each meeting. Each meeting is open to the community and all are welcome to attend!

Friends of Denison Montessori: The Friends of Denison Montessori (FDM) is a vital component of community building and volunteering at Denison. They hold monthly family events, help integrate new families into the Denison community, and fund classroom materials, specialized instruction, school improvements and major school events.

Membership in the PTSO is voluntary, but encouraged. The schedule for FDM Meetings will be determined and shared once it is set. We hope you can join us!

English Language Acquisition - Parent Advisory Committee (ELA-PAC): ELA-PAC is the organization in charge of communication between parents and the school regarding English Language Acquisition programming. All ELA Program schools must have an ELA-PAC, according to a court-ordered consent decree. The ELA-PAC provides information to families about ELA programming, increases communication between families and school, reviews the implementation of ELA programming, and listens and responds to family concerns.

PICK-UP & DROP-OFF EXPECTATIONS

Please review the [Primary](#) (ECE3, ECE4, Kindergarten) and [Elementary](#) (1st - 6th) documents for information about pick-up, drop off, parking, before school recess, and breakfast. Please remember we are all members of the same community and to model ROSE Expectations (Respect Others, School, & Environment) when interacting with children, families, and Denison staff members.

SCHOOL WIDE EXPECTATIONS

We have ROSE expectations at Denison, which help keep all students, staff, & community members safe.

ROSE Expectations- We expect our Denison community to follow the characteristics of the ROSE model.

- **R**espect
- **O**thers
- **S**elf
- **E**nvironment

In the event that a student is struggling to meet Denison's ROSE expectations, we follow the procedures as listed in Appendix A, "**Denver Public Schools Discipline Matrix & Discipline Ladder Action Steps**," which align with the DPS Discipline Ladder.

SOCIO-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT & REFERRALS

It is critical for students' growth, both academic and socio-emotional, to be fostered. If you have concerns about a student who is exhibiting behavior changes, or your family has experienced a change at home that could be supported by a short-term intervention group, please reach out to Denison's Social Worker, Kirsten Loar, at kirsten_loar@dpsk12.net. This collaboration will allow consideration of possible in school interventions or how to support your child with accessing resources outside of school. We will also continue to use the BESS screener twice per year to help inform how we can better support our students.

STUDENT SUPPORTS & INTERVENTIONS

Student supports and interventions are offered for any child that is struggling academically, behaviorally, or emotionally, whether they need a temporary plan or permanent plan to ensure their academic and/or emotional success. Supports can include English Language Acquisition (ELA) groups, literacy intervention groups, and/or social-emotional skill building individual/group interventions.

If students continue to struggle after receiving interventions for at least 6 weeks, the school may invite the parent or guardian in for a Student Intervention Team (SIT) meeting. This team is made up of teachers, support staff, and parents, and the purpose is to problem-solve and determine

the best ways to support the student at school. This process is referred to as Response to Intervention (RTI) which is part of a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) model.

After completing a minimum of two six-week cycles of intervention, the student MAY be referred for consideration of Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan. For more information about this process or model, please contact the office to get you in touch with one of our support staff members.

IEP's, 504's and MTSS Meetings: For any child receiving these supports, meetings will be scheduled by the student's case manager with advance notice. You will be scheduled for a meeting time between 7:40 - 3:40 and will receive notification at least ten days prior with the date and time so you can plan accordingly. We want to ensure we are available to meet with you and set goals for your child in a timely manner. While we completely understand and can relate to work schedules, we are asking all of you to please make an effort to attend these very important meetings at the scheduled time. If, for some reason, you cannot adjust your schedule with ten days notice, we can offer the following options:

- Reschedule the time on that assigned day
- Reschedule the date to the next available slot

TECHNOLOGY USE

DPS currently has a Google Domain with Google, which enables all of our students to use Google Apps for Education in the classroom. By giving your consent during registration, your student is able to log into their Google accounts and access tools such as Seesaw, Google Docs, Google Forms, and Google Presentation. For the 2024-2025 school year, these tools may be used by classroom and specials teachers in order to enhance curricular projects. Google Apps for Education is a safe and secure site for your child to use. Additional support is available at googlesupport.dpsk12.net or by requesting assistance using the green "DoTS help" button found [here](#).

During the Annual Family Update and registration this year, parents and students signed a Technology Acceptable Use Agreement governing computer use at Denison in order to use any technology. Failure to comply with any or all of this policy will result in a loss of any or all computer use privileges.

DPS has moved to a 1 to 1 device model (DPS's MyTech Program) for students. Students in grades K-6 will be assigned a Chromebook for use throughout the 2023-2024 school year. As part of this program, families may be required to pay fees for broken, lost, or stolen devices or charging cords. Teachers will work with students and families to ensure students have devices at school for regular use.

TITLE ONE COMPACT

Denison Montessori and the parents of the students, and students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) agree that [this compact](#) outlines how the entire school staff, parents, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards.

TRANSPORTATION/CARPOOLING OPTIONS

DPS will no longer be offering yellow school bus service to Denison Montessori students and families for the 2023-2024 school year. Due to this change, we are excited to partner with Way To Go's Schoolpool program. You can join Denison Montessori's Schoolpool program to connect with other families to drive, walk or bike to school together. Signing up is simple!

1. Go to <https://mywaytogo.org/s/schoolpool-denison-bdf23>, create an account, and enter your address or intersection. (For security reasons, this link is the only way for Denison Montessori families to register.)
 - Pro-tip: Use a computer. While it works on a smartphone and tablet, there is more functionality on a computer.
2. Add comments to indicate interest, such as "can provide morning rides in exchange for afternoon rides," "student is in after-school activities," or "looking for a walk buddy in the mornings."
3. Find and contact interested families.

The more families that register, the more likely you are to find good matches. Even if your family doesn't need a ride, consider signing up to drive other students. Your participation builds a stronger school community and helps alleviate traffic and parking problems around our school.

APPENDIX A

DPS/Denison Calendar

For the 2024-2025 school year, Denison Montessori will be following the [DPS calendar](#) with early release days added on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

SIGNATURE PAGE

Please read this handbook completely. You may print and sign this page and submit the signed form to the main office to demonstrate your understanding of its contents. You may also provide a digital signature by copying this page into an email, providing the requested information, and email it to the main office at alice_cothran@dpsk12.net.

We only need one signature page per family.

By signing this signature page, I am stating that I have read completely and am familiar with the information included in the 2024-2025 Denison Family Handbook.

Oldest Child's Name:_____

Oldest Child's Teacher:_____

Parent/Guardian Name

(Print):_____

Signature:_____

Date:_____