

Student Handbook

2025 - 2026



Central Elementary School

107 Central Street
East Bridgewater, MA 02333
Telephone: 508-378-8204
Fax: 508-378-8229

Principal

Catherine Byrne
KByrne@ebps.net

Assistant Principal

Debbi Nichols
DNichols@ebps.net

Main Office

8:00 - 4:00

Office Administrators

Janine Harvey (ext. 3302)
JHarvey@ebps.net

Stacey Jenkins (ext 3303)
SJenkins@ebps.net

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

143 Plymouth Street,
East Bridgewater, MA
02333
Telephone: 508-378-8200

Superintendent
Dr. Gina Williams

Business Manager
John Shea

Director of Special Education
John Phelan

Student Activities Director
Lisa Varrasso

District Technology Coordinator
Andrew LaMacchia

K-12 Curriculum Facilitator
Jennifer McPartland

K-12 Technology Facilitator
Erin Fisher

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Chairperson
Gordon McKinnon

Vice Chairperson
Rebecca Fidler

Secretary
Ellen Pennington

Member
Peter Furia

Member
Dan Picha

Member
Amy Berry

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Chairpersons
Kate Byrne
Debbi Nichols

Faculty
Sandi Telless
Dagny Fleming

Community Representative
East Bridgewater CCC

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
Kelsey Holbrook
Tricia Zocher
Meghan McLaughlin
Katy O'Leary

Central School Quick Reference Extensions

IEP Coordinator	Sheila Pero ext 3304
School Psychologist	Tom Mahoney ext 3210
Adjustment Counselor	Laura Eddy ext 3214
Adjustment Counselor	Nicole Heavey ext 3306
Guidance Counselor	Jason Rasher ext 3017
School Nurse	Amy Barendregt ext 3305
School Nurse	Alyssa Burbank ext 3307
Lead Custodian	Ted Johnson ext 3018
Cafeteria Manager	Jennifer Blair ext 3015

Central School Schedule

	Full Day	Early Release Day
Half Day AM Prek	8:45-11:15	8:45-11:15
Half Day PM PreK	12:15-2:45	No Class in Session
Full Day PreK	8:45-2:45	8:45-11:45
K-2	8:50-3:00	8:50-12:00

Professional Development Days, Early Release Days and Vacation Days: [Click Here](#)

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East Bridgewater Educational Philosophy

WE BELIEVE.....

Schools are one of society's stewards for passing on to young people the foundational lessons of the past, the essential experiences of the present, and the vital skills and knowledge of the future. In doing so, we inspire our students to think and act as responsible and engaged citizens.

The success and safety of our school community is directly tied to the collaboration among administrators, teachers, students, families, municipal partners and community members. Continuous interaction and communication among all parties fosters critical thinking, creativity, and innovation in each individual learner.

Our staff and administrators build trusting relationships to create a positive and supportive culture within our schools. Our teachers employ creativity and rigor in the classroom to engage and inspire all students to reach their fullest potential.

Our inclusive educational practices support and enhance our students' varied learning rates, their diverse learning styles, and their unique personal needs within a spectrum of public school programs. These practices contribute to differentiated and personalized educational opportunities for all learners.

We accept the commitment and challenge of serving our community in a coordinated effort to maximize the quality of educational opportunities for every student.

Mission Statement

The East Bridgewater Public School District, in partnership with the community, continues to provide an academically challenging, safe, and supportive learning environment that promotes the pursuit of excellence for all.

Central School Mission Statement

The mission of the East Bridgewater Central School is to work cooperatively with the home to provide a quality education for each student, including the development of effective communication, problem solving, and decision making skills, while promoting positive self-image and respect for ourselves and others.

CENTRAL SCHOOL CORE VALUES

We will have compassion and show respect for individual differences.

We will be enthusiastic, self-disciplined learners, able to solve problems effectively.

We will make sound, independent decisions accepting responsibility for ourselves and our actions.

We will have confidence and respect for ourselves.

We will be effective communicators.

Principal's Welcome

Welcome to Central Elementary School! We are looking forward to an exciting, successful school year. We have prepared this handbook so that we may facilitate better understanding between the school and home concerning school procedures. We ask for your cooperation so that we may provide your child with a rewarding and enriching educational experience. On behalf of the faculty and staff, we would like to extend an invitation to you to visit our school, attend your child's programs and become an active volunteer. We are very happy to have you and your child with us at Central Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Catherine Byrne, Principal

Mrs. Debbi Nichols, Assistant Principal

ACADEMICS

Preschool:

The integrated preschool program is designed to meet the requirements of the enrolled special needs preschool population as well as other preschool children from the community. Admissions for the children with special education needs are referred through the Special Education Department of the East Bridgewater Public Schools. Anyone who feels his/her child may need services can collect further information by contacting the Early Childhood Coordinator, Mrs. Sheila Pero Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM-3:30 PM at 508-378-8204 ext 3304. Application for admission for model students begins in January for the following year. Central School offers several programs with a limited number of slots. This is a tuition-based program for model students. Students must be three (3) years or (4) years of age by August 31 st.

*If the number of applicants exceeds availability, a lottery will be held.

Kindergarten:

A child must attain age five by August 31st to begin the school year in September. The hours for the full day kindergarten students are 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. On early release days they will be dismissed at noon. Walkers will be signed out and greeted by parents at the end of the day on the right side of the building under the red awning entrance.

ARRIVAL/ DISMISSALS PROCEDURES

Students arrive and dismiss each day with safety being the top priority. Use the link below to familiarize yourself with our procedures for both bus and drop off students.

 [Arrival/Dismissal Procedures](#)

SECURITY/SAFETY

For the safety of the children, all doors of the building will remain locked from the outside during the school day. In case of an emergency, children and staff can easily exit the building through these doors. No child is allowed to leave this building with any individual unless that person is properly identified as a parent, guardian, or authorized escort. Said escort must report to the office in person to pick up the child. If the person is unknown to the office, identification will be requested. Please send a written note if someone else is to pick up your child. No child shall be dismissed except to a parent, guardian or individual designated by the parent in writing. All visitors must sign in with license identification through our main office using the LobbyGuard security system and sign out prior to exiting the building.

COURT RELATED MATTERS

If a student is the subject of any temporary or permanent custody/restraint orders, a copy of the custody/restraint order, signed by the judge of the probate court should be placed on file in the principal's office. These orders are important for determining access to student's records, the right to have a student dismissed into the care of an individual, the right to access a student's teacher(s) and similar issues. Parents are obligated to provide any changes in the custody/restraint orders.

SCHOOL CANCELLATION/DELAYED OPENING

East Bridgewater Public Schools have initiated ParentSquare, the school-to-parent communication system that will enable us to send weather related school cancellation and delay announcements via text or email. When school is canceled or delayed by the Superintendent due to an impending storm or emergency, local radio and television stations will also be notified. Delayed openings may be up to 2 hours and there would be no AM preschool. Parents should develop a plan with their child in the event of an emergency early dismissal.

ATTENDANCE

All children are expected to be in attendance each day unless they are ill or a family emergency arises.

Absentee protocols

WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENTS

If you are moving and are withdrawing your child from school, please call or come to the school a few days prior to the withdrawal date. This will give ample time to complete the necessary paperwork, which includes the official transfer slip and the release of the student's records to their new school. Your cooperation is always greatly appreciated.

STUDENT INFORMATION - EMERGENCY INFORMATION SHEET

During the first week of school your child's teacher will be sending home an information sheet for you to complete. Having this information returned promptly and correctly is of the utmost importance. A record of this information is kept in the school office in case you need to be contacted. Please make sure all telephone numbers, addresses and emails are accurate, especially for persons who should be contacted in case you cannot be reached. Please notify the school if you change addresses or telephone numbers during the year. It is very important that our records are kept up-to-date in case of an emergency.

FIRE DRILLS

Fire drills are necessary for the safety of students and faculty. Everyone should know the specific directions for reaching a point of safety from various areas of the school building. There are a minimum of four fire drills each year. In the event the school should have to be evacuated for safety reasons the children will be taken to the East Bridgewater Jr. Sr. High School.

A.L.I.C.E DRILLS

A.L.I.C.E. school safety drills are conducted in collaboration with the East Bridgewater Police Department throughout the year to prepare students for an emergency situation. A.L.I.C.E. stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. As part of our A.L.I.C.E instruction students will become familiar with the rally point and visit it throughout the year with the supervision of staff.

PLAYGROUND USE

The Central Elementary School children use the school playground during the school day and for Before and After School Care (7:00am-6:00pm). Community members are allowed to visit during off-school hours, the weekends, throughout the summer and when school or school related activities are not in session.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The regular meetings are held once monthly on Tuesday evenings, unless otherwise noted. The Committee meets in the East Bridgewater Jr/Sr High School Library at 6:00PM. The schedule may vary, and can be found online at www.ebps.net. The public is cordially invited to attend these meetings, which are also broadcast live on EB-CAM@EBCTV, East Bridgewater Community Access Media Public Channel 9, Educational Channel 98, and Government Channel 6.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

Our Instructional Support Assistants have a wide variety of responsibilities at each grade level. They provide reinforcement in skill areas, and act as a resource to individual students. In accordance with No Child Left Behind all our paraprofessionals meet the federal guidelines with the appropriate credentials. Our teacher assistants greatly enhance our adult to child ratio, which impacts instruction, and they are an integral part of our programming.

SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

We appreciate the partnership that has developed between the school and the community. Our volunteers give teachers an extra pair of hands both in and out of the classroom. They may supervise educational games, reinforce skills, and assist with computer usage, or read with children. Please keep in mind that state law requires schools to obtain a background check (CORI Report) on all school employees and volunteers that have direct contact with children. If you would like to become a volunteer, please call or stop by the Central School Office.

VISITORS

All visitors, parents, traveling specialists, or any person not a member of assigned school staff, must report to the office prior to going anywhere in the building and sign in using our LobbyGuard system. All doors will remain locked during school hours. Visitors will be monitored and allowed entry to the building by authorized personnel only.

PARENT - TEACHER ORGANIZATION

The PTO is responsible for building a closer relationship between home and school. Members inform parents of school activities and serve as advocates for the Central School. The PTO encourages involvement of parents in our school. The meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month during the school calendar year at 6:30 PM in the Cafeteria.

FUNDRAISING

1. Each grade will be allowed to participate in one fundraising activity with the prior approval of an administrator.
2. If there is a school-wide fundraiser it must serve East Bridgewater organizations and needs to be approved by the principal at least 2 months in advance. Here is the link to the district fundraising policy.

Fundraising

SCHOOL COUNCIL

There is a Central School Council that involves parents, teachers, a community representative and the principal. This group meets to discuss the school improvement plan and other related issues. The Council meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the school. Parent participation is encouraged.

LOST & FOUND

There is a lost and found area on the first floor that has many coats, hats, lunch boxes and backpacks that are unclaimed. During the December and April school vacation weeks any items that are unclaimed are donated to charity. Items left after the close of school in June will also be donated to charity. Please have your child check regularly for missing items.

TUITION PAYMENTS

Students who are enrolled in our Preschool and tuition-based programs may be subject to withdrawal from our program for outstanding payments. All tuition payments are to be paid as dictated by the tuition schedule. Report cards and classroom placements may also be held for any outstanding obligations at the end of the school year.

STUDENT SERVICES

STUDENT PROGRESS CONFERENCES

Parent-school communication is an essential part of the educational program. There are three report forms issued each year, with Fall and Spring conferences. In addition, notes home, phone calls, parent square messages and informational meetings are encouraged concerning the children's progress in school.

CHILD STUDY TEAM

Chapter 71 of the Massachusetts General Laws requires that all Massachusetts school districts adopt and implement Curriculum Accommodation Plans (CAPS). The purpose of such plans is to ensure that all efforts have been made to address student needs within the regular education program. The Central School Child Study Team meets regularly to discuss individual student concerns and suggest strategies that can be implemented

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Students may bring their lunches from home. Massachusetts has become the eighth state in the nation to permanently provide universal (1) one free breakfast and lunch to its public school children. Milk will be .75 cents and snacks will be \$1.25 to \$1.50. We have made every effort to see that no products containing peanuts are sold in the cafeteria as we have a nut cautious kitchen. During the first week of school, all children will be given an application for free or reduced-price lunch to take home to their parents. Only those who wish to apply need to return the forms. Visit our "Food Services" tab on our website at www.ebps.net. where you can: Click the link to print out the "Free and Reduced Price School Meals Family Application" and the instructions. This can be filled out and returned to your child's teacher at ANY TIME during the school year. Only one application per family is needed and please be sure to fill in all information. Click the link to the Mass. Dept. of Early and Secondary "Income Eligibility Guidelines" to see if you qualify. Click the line "Pre-pay options" for information on how to pay for your child's meals without making them carry cash to school. Click the "Menus" links to see the monthly menu selections.

STUDENT INSURANCE

Student insurance is available to all students. Information regarding this insurance may be obtained by visiting the school website at www.ebps.net under the Information tab. Purchase of insurance is optional.

READING FOR ENJOYMENT

As parents you have an important role in improving your child's reading ability. Reading aloud to your child, listening to your child read aloud, discussing what has been read, and generally encouraging reading at home can improve reading, writing and speaking.

SPECIALS

ART, HEALTH, LIBRARY/MEDIA, MUSIC, AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The children have specials daily per a weekly schedule. Students should wear sneakers for physical education classes. The library/media class enhances the student's growth with literacy and computer skills and teaches digital citizenship. The music program offers a wide variety of hands-on activities that foster the appreciation of music. Health education will focus on social emotional health and well-being, nutrition, fitness, and safety.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are an extension of the grade level curriculum. All students that attend a field trip must travel on the school bus with the rest of the group. All parents that are chosen to chaperone must have an updated CORI filled out with the school system. For safety reasons, parents are discouraged from following behind the buses and walking around with the group unless they are chosen as a chaperone. All field trips should return to the school by 2:30 PM.

HEALTH SERVICES

The basic purpose of the health program is to assure that each child attains the greatest benefit from the educational opportunities provided by the school and grows into a healthy adult in the future. Guidelines have been developed to protect the health and promote the safety of all children while in school.

YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD BEST. FOR YOUR CHILD'S PROTECTION, PLEASE KEEP HIM/ HER AT HOME IF HE/SHE SHOWS SIGNS OF NOT FEELING WELL. WE HAVE NO FACILITIES FOR KEEPING ILL CHILDREN IN SCHOOL.

Be sure your child understands that he/she should always tell his/her teacher if he/she is hurt or feels sick. Any student who is sick or hurt in school should report to the nurse's office. If the school nurse feels that a student should be dismissed, the parent or guardian will be called. Parents will either pick up the child at school or provide a way home.

To access information regarding school requirements for health services, please click on the provided link.

 [Health services details](#)

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT

Our aim is to build a safe, orderly, and productive school environment where students take responsibility, respect themselves and others, and are cooperative. It is expected that students will adhere to the rules in a consistent manner. When a student is having difficulty maintaining expected behavior, the staff will make every effort to respond in a reasonable and fair manner. We expect students to understand they are responsible for their actions and consequences for unexpected behavior will be applied. In an effort to ensure that students understand expectations for behavior, the staff discusses and reviews the rules of behavior throughout the year. The Central School behavior expectations also apply to the behavior on the school bus.

Students are expected to:

- Talk and behave with respect to other students and adults
- Respect the rights and property of others
- Follow the directions of the adults in authority
- Walk at all times in the school
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to oneself
- Use school materials appropriately
- Take care of our school and school property
- Remain seated appropriately while on the bus keeping the aisle clear
- Talk quietly on the bus
- Bring only safe and appropriate items to school (no toys, trading cards, electronics, including cell phones unless for medical reasons, or weapons)

All school rules concerning student discipline and consequences are intended to follow Massachusetts General Law 37 H, 37H1/2 and 37 H3/4. Students who break school rules face various consequences depending on the type and severity of the infraction. During the early childhood years, students are learning to make good choices and demonstrate expected behavior. Social emotional support and opportunity to learn from mistakes is our first order of response. In the case of repeated offenses, administration will determine appropriate disciplinary action including, but not limited to loss of privileges, in-school suspension and out of school suspension. Incidents requiring disciplinary actions are recorded in School Brains and verbally reported to the family. In the event of dangerous or destructive behavior, in addition to reporting in School Brains, an Incident Report may be filed and a copy will be distributed to the family. Parents/Guardians will be notified prior to imposing an out of school suspension and the regulations regarding Due Process will be followed.

[603 CMR 53.00: Student Discipline - Education Laws and Regulations](#)

REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO DISCIPLINE POLICY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Individualized Educational Plan (I.E.P.) or 504 Plan for every student who has been identified to have a disability will indicate whether the student can be expected to meet the regular discipline code. If a modified discipline code is required, it will be written into the I.E.P. or 504 Plan. When it is known that the suspension(s) of a student with disabilities will accumulate to 10 days in a school year, a review of the I.E.P. or 504 Plan as provided in Section 333.

Manifestation Determination

POLICIES QUICK LINKS

Appendix: School Committee and District Policies		
Policy	Description	Link
Acceptable Use (District - School CMT)	Acceptable use related to technology	Acceptable Use Policy - Technology
A.L.I.C.E. - EBPS Critical Incident Plan (District)	Emergency response protocol	EBPS Critical Incident Plan
Bullying Policy (District - School CMT)	District bullying policy	Policy Prohibiting Bullying
Bullying Prevention (District - School CMT)	District bullying prevention plan	Bullying Prevention
Community Relations (District - School CMT)	District Policies and Community Partnerships	Community Relations
Conduct and Discipline (District - School CMT)	District Student Discipline Policy	Student Discipline
DCAP (District - School CMT)	District Curriculum Accommodation Plan	DCAP Sample DCAP Interventions
Dress Code (District - School CMT)	District Dress Code Policy	Dress Code
Due Process Rights and Responsibilities (District - School CMT)	Federal and State Constitutional Rights	Rights and Responsibilities
Fundraising (District - School CMT)	District policy on fundraising and activities	Fundraising Policy Fundraising Activities
Non-discrimination (District - School CMT)	School Committee Foundations and Basic Commitments including Non-discrimination Policies	Foundations and Basic Commitments
Non-discrimination on basis of gender identity	Guidance from DESE on non-discrimination on the basis of gender identity	DESE Non-discrimination on the basis of gender identity
Support Services (District - School CMT)	Overview of Supports: Safety and Transportation	Support Services
Suspected Child Abuse	Mandated reporting for suspected negligence and child abuse	Mandated Reporting

Appendix: School Committee and District Policies

Policy	Description	Link
Promotion/Retention	Guidance on promotion and retention	Promotion/ Retention
Enrollment	How to enroll student into school	Enrollment
Bus Fee Policy	Bus fees and how to pay	Bus Fees
Asbestos Management Plan	How to obtain asbestos report	Asbestos Management Plan
Notice of Nondiscrimination	East Bridgewater's nondiscrimination policy	Notice of Nondiscrimination
Physical Restraint/ Behavior Support	Physical Restraint policies	Physical Restraint/ Behavior Support
504 Policy	Description of student rights	504 Policy

Appendix: Central School Policies

Policy	Description	Link
Homework Policy	Homework expectations	Homework Policy
Technology- Internet Access	Chromebook expectations	Technology-Internet Access
Student Responsible Technology Use	Guidelines and expectations for technology use	Student Responsible Technology Use
Arrival/ Dismissal Procedures	How students will arrive and depart from Central School	Arrival/ Dismissal Procedures
Absentee Protocols	What to do if your student is absent	Absentee Protocols
Fundraising	Guidelines to community partnerships	Fundraising
Health Service Details	Nurses information for parents	Health Service Details
Photographing/ Videotaping	Policy around photographing and videotaping students	Photographing/Videotaping
Signature Pages	Sign offs to be returned to school	Signature Pages



Central Elementary School
**“THROUGH THESE DOORS PASS THE GREATEST
CHILDREN IN THE WORLD”**

