

2026-2027

Cabot School Arrival & Dismissal Plan

Getting your children to and from school safely is an important priority for your family, for Cabot Elementary School, and for the City of Newton. Please read the following information regarding arrival and dismissal as you decide your family's routines for the school year.

General Information

Cabot School is located in a residential neighborhood that simply cannot accommodate a large number of cars. Since most students live close enough to walk to our neighborhood elementary schools, **families are urged to walk whenever possible**, thereby improving safety for all. Students living further from the school are encouraged to bike or take the bus.

Crossing Guards: Cabot has four crossing guards, posted at:

- Blake St. & Cabot St.
- East Side Parkway & Winchester Rd.
- Harvard St. & Cabot St.
- Bridges Ave. by the north side of the school

Buses

Cabot's bus stops can be found [here](#). Registration is required; [click here](#) for more information.

Bikes should be walked while on school grounds and locked to one of the bike racks. There are 4 bike racks; 2 near the playground, 1 in front of the gym near Cabot Street, 1 near the north parking lot off Bridges Ave.

Blue Zones are areas designated by the City of Newton for the live drop-off and pick-up of students during restricted times. These areas are marked by blue curbs and signs. Cabot School has two Blue Zones: one is on East Side Parkway and a second along the north side of the building, accessed by Bridges Ave. Consider the following while deciding if the Blue Zone works for your family:

- **The Blue Zone is a “live” drop-off/pick-up line.** Drivers must stay in their cars, ready to move forward. Cars may only remain in the Blue Zone long enough for a child to enter/exit the car.
- Cars must pull as far forward in the Blue Zone as possible.
- Children must be able to buckle/unbuckle their seatbelts and open/close car doors by themselves in the Blue Zone. If you need to get out of the car to operate the doors or seatbelts, please park on one of the Park and Walk streets (Blake, Withington, & Winchester) and walk your child to the playground plaza.
- There is no waiting in the Blue Zone - it is only for active loading/unloading.
- **Cars may not be left unattended for any reason. Please observe all posted signage restrictions. Violators will be warned and blue zone privileges may be revoked. Parking a motor vehicle in a blue zone is illegal and is punishable by a fine of \$25.**
- **Do not drop your child off on Bridges Avenue. This is both a safety concern as well as a disruption to both the neighborhood and school vans.**

Is my child ready for the Blue Zone?

- Does your child need help opening the curbside car door?
- Does your child need help putting on/taking off their seat belt or harness?
- Does your child need “one last hug” before entering school?
- Does your child resist getting out of the car at drop-off?

- Does your child need help getting belongings into school?

If any of these statements are true, the Blue Zone isn't appropriate for you! Please make plans to walk to school or to park in one of the Park and Walk streets (Blake, Withington, & Winchester) and walk to the building.

[Important reminders about the blue zone at Cabot.](#)

Student Safety Reminders

School hours are from 8:10 AM - 2:50 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; and 8:10 - 12:35 PM on Wednesday. Cabot staff and faculty are not responsible for students outside these hours. Any student who is unsure of where to go after school should return to the main office, which will remain open until 3:30 PM. All students should follow general safety precautions with regards to being aware of their surroundings, crossing streets at crosswalks/green pedestrian signals, and wearing helmets while biking.

Dismissal Plans

Parents are required to use [this online form](#) to indicate their child's default ("regular") daily dismissal routine. Parents can make default changes by notifying the office and classroom teacher.

Single-circumstance changes (play dates, early pick up, delayed arrival, absences) should be made using [the dismissal changes link](#) on the website by 1 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and by 11:30 AM on Wednesday.

The dismissal changes link provides the critical information the office and your child's classroom teacher need to dismiss your child properly. Changes made using the link ensures the main office and the classroom teacher are notified. ***Please utilize this system to ensure a safe and orderly dismissal from Cabot School.***

Arrival Policies and Procedures

Students are allowed to enter the building at 8:10. Kindergarten students enter by the door near the cafeteria. Grade 1-2 students enter by the door by the playground plaza closest to Cabot Park, and grade 3-5 students enter by the door near the flagpole and Humpty Dumpty statue.

Prior to that time, students should gather in the plaza area between the school, park, and Cabot St. The school is not responsible for students and no staff are on duty until 8:10.

Arrival on Foot/Bike

Students should utilize the designated walking routes where possible and cross streets at locations with crossing guards and crosswalks. Students should congregate in the plaza area closest to their entry door until the doors open.

Arrival by Car

There are two blue zones: along East Side Parkway and along the north side of the building, accessed by Bridges Ave. After getting out of the car, students should walk to the plaza area closest to their entry door. There is a paved walkway to the playground plaza from the Blue Zone along East Side Parkway, which will be cleared of snow in the winter. Students using the Blue Zone at arrival must follow the rules outlined on the first page. Please do not drop off your child on Bridges Avenue. The front parking lot off bridges avenue is for school buses and vans only. These two areas are not drop off zones.

Arrival by Bus/Support Vans

Buses and support vans will be met by an aide or support staff member and students will be brought to the playground plaza area.

Dismissal Policies and Procedures

The school's responsibility for children ends at 2:50 pm (12:20 on Wednesday and early release days); this extends to usage of the playground, plaza, and the surrounding neighborhood.

Dismissal on Foot/Bike

K-2 students exit by the door by the playground plaza closest to Cabot Park, and 3-5 students exit by the door near the flagpole and Humpty Dumpty statue. Parents/Guardians meeting students on foot should walk, bike, or park on surrounding streets and walk to the plaza closest to the exit door. Suggested streets are Blake, Withington, and Winchester. Families are encouraged to cross using the crossing guards at Bridges Ave., Blake St., Winchester Rd., and Harvard St.

- **Grades K-2** will be dismissed to a parent/guardian or other approved adult, or to a 3-5 sibling with parent approval; K-2 dismissal requires visual contact with the teacher.
- **Grades 3-5** will be dismissed independently.

Dismissal to Car via Blue Zone

- Use of the Blue Zone at dismissal is only an option for grade 3-5 students and K-2 students who are accompanied by their grade 3-5 siblings (with prior parental approval).
- **K-2 students may not use the blue zone alone at dismissal.** Their teachers will dismiss them in the playground area and are unable to bring individual students to the Blue Zone.
- Grades K-2 students will be brought to the playground area near Cabot Park. Grade 3-5 students will be brought to the flagpole closest to Cabot Street. From there, Grade 3-5 students will make their way independently to the blue zone, collecting younger siblings on their way if approved to do so.
- Families **may not** wait in the Blue Zone prior to dismissal. The Blue Zone is a live pick-up zone; vehicles may only stop while actively picking up students. Idling is prohibited by state law.
- [Click here](#) for more information on the Blue Zone.
- **We appreciate your cooperation and we apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Remember that student safety is our highest priority!**

Dismissal to Buses

Kindergarten students will be accompanied by classroom assistants to their bus pickup location. Grade 1 - 5 students will independently make their way to their bus pickup location.

Once gathered, riders will line up by bus as indicated by signage (Boston, Newton, West Suburban YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, Oak Square YMCA). Staff will take attendance, and escort students outside to the bus lane.

Dismissal to Support Vans

All K-5 students that are picked up by a van service will be brought by an aide or support staff member directly from their classroom to the vans, which will be located in the small parking lot on Bridges Avenue in front of the Cabot Street building entrance.

Dismissal to CASP

K students in the Cabot After School Program (CASP) will be met at their classrooms by CASP staff and brought to the cafeteria. Grade 1 - 5 students will independently make their way to the cafeteria. All CASP students will be dismissed from the entrance on the playground side of the building.

Dismissal to Newton Community Education Classes

Students participating in NCE classes will meet their teachers in the assigned classrooms. Parents will be informed of this location prior to the first class of each session. If there is any confusion or if an NCE teacher is not present, students should return to the main office and the Cabot staff will help resolve the situation.

