



DRISCOLL 101

Parents' Handbook and Family Guide

Welcome to Driscoll School and the amazing Driscoll Community!

For those of you who have a child entering Driscoll School, especially kindergarten, get ready! You will be amazed at the joy in thinking and learning that takes place. We have talented teachers with qualities that complement and bring out the best in each other. We enjoy working together; sharing ideas, and helping students become readers, mathematicians, scientists, historians, and learners for life.



OUR MASCOT: THE DRISCOLL DRAGON

The Dragon is the most vital and powerful beast in the Chinese zodiac.

Gifted with innate courage, tenacity and intelligence, dragons are enthusiastic and confident. They are not afraid of challenges, and willing to take risks while striving for a smooth future.

CONTENTS

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	5
DAILY HOURS AT SCHOOL	5
ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES	6
SCHOOL BUILDING HOURS	6
ARRIVAL PROCEDURES	6
LATE ARRIVALS AND TARDINESS POLICY	6
IF YOU DRIVE YOUR CHILDREN TO AND FROM SCHOOL	7
DISMISSAL PROCEDURES	7
LATE PICK-UP	7
EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS	7
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM DISMISSAL PROCEDURE	7
DISMISSING YOUR CHILD DURING SCHOOL HOURS	8
FORGOT SOMETHING? NEED TO GET SOMETHING TO YOUR CHILD?	8
BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND SNACKS AND FOOD/ALLERGY GUIDELINES	8
CAFETERIA RULES	8
FOOD GUIDELINES AND ALLERGY POLICY	8
RECESS AND PLAYGROUND RULES	9
ABSENCE, ILLNESS, ACCIDENTS & INCIDENTS, MEDICATION & IMMUNIZATIONS	10
SCHOOL NURSE:	10
WHAT IF MY CHILD FEELS SICK AT SCHOOL?	10
WHAT IF NEED TO PICK MY CHILD UP EARLY?	10
WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS A DISCIPLINARY INCIDENT AT SCHOOL?	11
IMMUNIZATIONS	11
EMERGENCY DRILLS AND EVACUATION PROCEDURES	11
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS & PARTIES, DRISCOLL FIELD RESERVATIONS	12
LOST & FOUND	12
DRESS CODE	12
RULES WE SUCCEED BY	13
SOCIAL CURRICULUM AND BULLYING PREVENTION	13
THE HOME-SCHOOL CONNECTION - STAY INFORMED, BE INVOLVED	14
GET THE SCOOP – READ IT, ‘INSTA’ IT, SHARE IT	14
‘FinalSite’ - IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, SCHOOL CLOSINGS, AND DELAYS	14
MAKING PAYMENTS AND DONATIONS TO THE SCHOOL AND PTO	15
DRISCOLL MERCHANDISE	15
CALENDARS (Psmba, Driscoll, PTO)	15
REGULAR SCHOOL/PTO MEETINGS Sponsored by the PTO	15
DRISCOLL DIRECTORY published by the Driscoll PTO	16

COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR CHILD’S TEACHERS	16
PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION VIA EMAIL, PHONE AND IN PERSON	16
PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES AND PROGRESS REPORTS/REPORT CARDS	16
OPEN HOUSE – CURRICULUM OVERVIEW	17
K-5 COMMUNITY MEETINGS	17
CURRICULAR OFFERINGS BEYOND THE CORE	17
CURRICULUM INFORMATION	17
TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM AND INTEGRATION	17
LIBRARY AND MEDIA CENTER	17
MUSIC EDUCATION Driscoll students are offered music twice/week	18
ARTS CURRICULUM All students are offered art once/week	18
WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRAM	18
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS	19
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES FOR DRISCOLL STUDENTS	20
DRISCOLL AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (DASA) Offered by the Driscoll PTO	20
DRISCOLL EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM (DEDP)	20
HOMEWORK CENTERS	20
EVENTS, TRIPS, PROGRAMS AND EXPERIENCES	21
SCHOOL SPONSORED PROGRAMS	21
PTO SPONSORED PROGRAMS AND EVENTS	22
THE DRISCOLL PTO COMMUNITY – PARENT & TEACHER STRONG!	24
THE PARENT CONNECTION	25
ROOM PARENTS	25
SCHOOL CONTACTS	25
PTO CONTACTS	26
GENERAL QUESTIONS...DON’T KNOW WHO TO CONTACT?	26
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT WHO TO CONTACT?	26

Dear Families,

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you to a new and exciting school year! Driscoll School is a vibrant academic and social community. We take pride in the richness of our school's diversity, maintain high expectations and are committed to creating an environment of mutual respect and responsibility for oneself and others.

We believe that children are most likely to succeed when there is a strong partnership between home and school. This partnership is fostered through open communication and cooperation. In this packet, you will find the many opportunities offered for parents to stay connected, involved and informed.

At Driscoll School we are fortunate to have a strong and active PTO (Parent Teacher Organization). The PTO builds community, facilitates communication and raises funds to support Driscoll teacher, students and families. All families and teachers are part of the PTO and there are many ways for you to participate. It is run entirely on volunteers. We encourage you to learn more about the PTO events and efforts.

We are delighted that your family is part of our community. Your children's teachers, the support staff, office staff and PTO board members are always happy to speak with you to address your questions and concerns. We look forward to your support and participation as we all continue the tradition of excellence at Driscoll School.

Sincerely,

Mr. Youkilis and Ms. Lyons



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Here are some of the exciting events at Driscoll! Watch the Driscoll and PTO Websites for specific dates!

- ❖ **Back to School Picnic**
- ❖ **New Parent Breakfast**
- ❖ **Open Houses**
- ❖ **Fall Fling**
- ❖ **Science Solstice**
- ❖ **Arts Equinox**
- ❖ **...and More!**

CHECK OUR WEBSITES FOR EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND SCHOOL CLOSINGS FOR THE
2025/2026 SCHOOL YEAR: www.brookline.k12.ma.us/driscoll

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

We are excited to see you all for the first day of school! On the first day, students should arrive between 7:50am and 8 am (unless they take a bus).

Shortly after 8:00 am students will walk to their classrooms with their teachers.

Kindergarten parents may meet with other parents and the PTO for “Coffee and Kleenex” once they have dropped their students off in the Maker Space (Room 1680).

1st -8th Grade parents will say “goodbye” to students as they leave with their class.



SUPPLIES FOR YOUR STUDENT AND CLASSROOM

All Driscoll students must have a backpack or book bag clearly labeled with their name. Supplies should be simple and according to the teacher’s supply list that will be sent home before the start of school. Toys, valuables and electronics should be left at home.



DAILY HOURS AT SCHOOL

REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS

BEEP & Kindergarten to 8 th Grade: to 2:30 pm	Monday to Thursday: 8:00 am Friday: 8:00 am to 1:40 pm
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EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

Parent Conferences (8 days/year)	8:00 am to 12:40 pm (lunch is served)
Day before Thanksgiving the Holiday Break and Last Day of School:	8:00 am to 12:00 pm (lunch is NOT served)

LUNCH AND RECESS BREAKS

Students at each grade level from kindergarten through eighth grades will enjoy 30 minutes to eat lunch each day. With regard to recess, students in Grades K - 5 will have 29 minutes/day (or approximately 145 min/week) and students in Grades 6 - 8 will have 22 minutes/day (or approximately 90 min/week).

SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS

The Town makes automated phone calls to advise families of school closings, delays or any other urgent or emergency situations. School cancellations will also be listed on local TV and radio news stations

The first and last few minutes of the day are very important as teachers start with morning routines, review homework expectations and give reminders for the next day. Often, instructional academic blocks are scheduled at the very beginning or end of the day. Thus, we want to keep students focused, engaged and learning for every precious minute we have them! Children should be ready to learn promptly at 8:00 am.



ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

SCHOOL BUILDING HOURS

Building is open for arrivals at 7:50 am. Students taking part in early morning programs/teacher meetings or breakfast may enter at 7:30 am. Students must remain in the cafeteria or where their appointment is. After drop-off, all doors are locked. All visitors must ring the bell at the main door to enter the school. They must sign in (and out) at the Main Office and receive a visitor's badge before proceeding to their volunteer duties or appointments. Doors are unlocked again before dismissal.

Driscoll School values its instructional time with students. To ensure safety and a quiet learning environment, parents are expected to leave the classroom area and hallways by 8:00 am and to stay out of the hallways until dismissal time. Parents are welcome to continue their conversations in the cafeteria after drop-off. At dismissal time, children may be picked up at their classroom, but should leave the building promptly. Of course, there are some exceptions to this policy (for example: a special class event, scheduled appointment or meeting, or volunteering duty).

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

EARLY ARRIVAL FOR BREAKFAST PROGRAM AND BEFORE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Children participating in the *Breakfast Program* or early morning school activities may enter the building at **7:30 am** and must go directly to the cafeteria or designated supervised area for their activity. Students arriving prior to 7:50 am may not linger in the halls, classrooms or the main office.

KINDERGARTEN

Parents should bring children to their designated outside door. Please be on time when dropping off students. Feel free to wait in the cafeteria if you arrive more than ten minutes prior to drop off in inclement weather.

GRADES 1-8

Hallways open at 7:50 am. Children who arrive before 7:50 am must go to the cafeteria until hallways open, then proceed to their classrooms. Students in the middle school may not visit their locker prior to 7:50 am.

LATE ARRIVALS AND TARDINESS POLICY

Classroom instructions begin promptly at 8:00 am. Students who are late for school must report directly to the table at the library from 8:01-8:15

After 8:15 students should head to the office to check in using our online system and will be given a pass to present to their teacher.

All lateness will be noted on the child's permanent record, and a meeting with administration will be required if tardiness is an issue. Tardiness is disruptive to your child and to the entire class, therefore is important that the children be present and ready for the day when instruction begins. If an emergency arises and you know you will be late, please call the Main Office (617-879-4250).

IF YOU DRIVE YOUR CHILDREN TO AND FROM SCHOOL

You may park in legal parking spots on Washington Street or Bartlett Crescent only and walk your child to school. Students may be dropped off along Washington Street Westbourne Terrace. **No U-turns are allowed on Washington Street when exiting the drop off area.** You may NOT park in the school parking lots behind the school off Washington Street for drop-off or at pick-up, as this creates traffic problems. A permit is required to use the parking lot during school hours (8:00 am to 2:30 pm). Vehicles without a permit will be towed. If space is available, parents may use the lot after school hours.



or

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

All grades are dismissed at 2:30 pm on Monday through Thursday, and at 1:40 pm on Friday. Kindergarten children must be picked up from their outside classroom door. For all other grades, parents and caregivers are welcome to pick up their children from their designated outdoor dismissal area.

LATE PICK-UP

Parents or caregivers are expected to arrive on time. Children who have not been picked up within 5 minutes of dismissal will be brought to the Main Office. Please call the Main Office to let them know you are running late (617-879-4250). If we have not heard from you, parents or an emergency contact will be called. School personnel are not available to supervise children after 2:30 pm. If you have a same-day change related to the pick-up of your child, inform the Main Office immediately **and** email your teacher.

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS

There are 8 early dismissal days at 12:40 pm for Parent Conferences. Lunch will be served as normal on these days. There are noon dismissal days on the day before Thanksgiving and Last Day of School. The same pick-up procedures as above apply for respective grades.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM DISMISSAL PROCEDURE

Students attending Driscoll After School Activities (DASA) or Driscoll Extended Day Program (DEDP) go directly to their assigned areas at dismissal. Kindergarten children will be escorted to DEDP or their appropriate DASA classes. Children in grades 1-8 must walk to DASA classes independently/with minimal teacher support. Students should follow procedures for DEDP if they are going to DEDP.

DASA dismisses at 3:35 pm (unless otherwise noted). Children must be picked up at the DASA activity designated pick up spot. **If you are picking up your child, please arrive at 3:30 pm.** Unattended children will be brought to the Main Office at 3:40 pm to wait for their designated pick-up person. If you arrive late, please find your child at the Main Office. On-the-day changes/essential early pick up pre-3.30pm, call(**NUMBER**)

DEDP dismisses by 6:00 pm. For more information on DEDP procedures, contact Vinny LaFrazia or Thomas Reid at driscollprogram@gmail.com. On-the-day changes please call 617-738-4632 (??)

Students attending other programs outside Driscoll School must make arrangements for timely pick-up.

DISMISSING YOUR CHILD DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Parents should send an email to the teacher **and** main office indicating the date and time your child needs to be dismissed and who will be picking them up. When you arrive at school, buzz the front door and speak into the intercom and let them know your name and students name. The Main Office and will call your child. Students will need to sign themselves out and indicate the reason for early dismissal.

CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED AT ALL TIMES AFTER SCHOOL. THERE IS NO SUPERVISION IN THE PLAYGROUND AFTER SCHOOL AND STUDENTS MAY NOT ENTER THE BUILDING.

FORGOT SOMETHING? NEED TO GET SOMETHING TO YOUR CHILD?

Children often forget an item or two while rushing for school. If you need to drop off homework, lunch, or materials, please deliver them to the table in the main office. We will make sure your students get it. Parents may not take deliveries to the classroom during school hours.

BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AND SNACKS AND FOOD/ALLERGY GUIDELINES

Breakfast and lunch are available for purchase/order; healthy meals are prepared at the school. Breakfast is offered at 7:30 am. Students have an opportunity for a nut free snack in their classroom that they bring from home. Healthy snacks are encouraged.

Students who are eligible to receive free and reduced lunch prices will be notified after their application has been submitted and approved by the Town (forms will be sent home at the beginning of the year and are available on the town website <https://www.lunchapplication.com/>). Until forms are approved, children must bring money and/or a lunch.

Please visit the Brookline Food Services website for the most up to date information on how to set up a lunch account, order and pay (if applicable.)

<https://publicschoolsofbrooklineschoolnutrition.com/>

CAFETERIA RULES

We want our students to enjoy their lunchtime. These are some rules we ask the children to follow in order to keep the cafeteria a fun and safe place for everyone:

- Use a low, calm voice and focus on eating
- Stay in your seat unless given permission to leave by a lunch monitor.
- Use care when clearing your tray or dumping your trash.
- Please compost acceptable food and materials.
- Keep your table area clean
- Be kind and friendly to others and listen to adult directions

Sharing is good but not with food – Please advise your child that sharing food is not allowed mainly as a precaution to prevent the spreading of germs as well as preventing life threatening allergic reactions.

FOOD GUIDELINES AND ALLERGY POLICY

Driscoll maintains a NO NUT policy in all classrooms. Nut products are allowed in the cafeteria only. Nut-free tables are available in the cafeteria.

RECESS AND PLAYGROUND RULES

There are 4 zones to cover during recess: The lower grade playground, upper grade playground, basketball court, and turf field. During recess, we assign a minimum of 3 staff members per grade level to supervise.

There are usually two or three grade levels out at once.

Unless the weather is significantly bad, all students will be expected to participate in outdoor recess and should dress appropriately. If indoor recess is required, indoor activities will be available.



RECESS IS A TIME TO HAVE FUN AND MOVE!

Children need the time at recess to release energy and engage in both physical fitness and social play. We ask children to follow these rules at recess:

- Be courteous to your friends and schoolmates. Use kind language.
- Be safe! No jumping off playground equipment; no standing on Monkey Bars; slide down slides feet first, one person at a time, sitting only. **No climbing up the slide.**
- Students should wear proper shoes, boots, or sneakers.
- **PLAYGROUND RULES FOR SNOW:**
 1. K-5 students must wear boots if your feet are in the snow.
 2. K-5 must wear snow pants if your legs are touching the snow.
 3. Snow must stay on the ground. You may build with snow as long as it stays on the ground.

ABSENCE, ILLNESS, ACCIDENTS & INCIDENTS, MEDICATION & IMMUNIZATIONS



REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN A STUDENT'S ACHIEVEMENT AT SCHOOL. SICK CHILDREN SHOULD STAY HOME TO ENSURE OTHERS AT SCHOOL CAN STAY HEALTHY.

SCHOOL NURSE:

Marianne Dewing (617-879-4257)

The school nurse is available on-site during school hours. Registered nurses at school provide:

1. Illness Assessment/First Aid/Emergency Evaluation and Referral as needed for physical, psychological, social, emotional, behavioral issues;
2. Management of care of students with Special Medical Needs;
3. Physical Examination and Health Medical History;
4. Medication Administration;
5. Screening programs (mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health);
6. Immunization Review;
7. Additional Service include counseling, consultation, facilitation, teaching to maintain a safe school that promotes health and wellness.

Please meet with the school nurse if you have any medical concerns regarding your child's health, including, but not limited to, acute or chronic medical needs as well as injuries. If your child has an injury requiring a cast or restriction in activity, a note from the treating physician is required documenting the restrictions.

Any medication, including over the counter medications (excluding inhalers and epipens) must be accompanied with current physician order and parent consent form. Inhalers must be accompanied by an asthma action plan, and Epipens with an epipen/allergy care plan. Parent and physician must sign all forms. Forms are easily access on the Driscoll Website (www.brookline.k12.ma.us/driscoll).

WHAT IF MY CHILD FEELS SICK AT SCHOOL?

If your child is not feeling well he/she will be sent to the nurse. If your child has a fever, is too uncomfortable to stay in class, or in the case of an accident that results in significant injury, the nurse will call one parent or guardian.

WHAT IF NEED TO PICK MY CHILD UP EARLY?

Please go to the Main Office and request that your child be sent down and sign your child out. Please do NOT go to your child's classroom and please do NOT leave without signing your child out.

Students are expected to attend school every day. If a student is absent, parents should call the school and send a note to the teacher when illness is the cause. A doctor's note is required when a child is absent 3 days or more. Parents will receive a letter from school administration when children are absent for more than five days. Parents will be contacted for a meeting when a child is absent 10 or more days

(cumulative) without explanation.

The district attendance policy is here: <https://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/Page/2772>

For information about when to keep your child home, visit www.brookline.k12.ma.us/page/1249

Please Note: Whenever possible, medical and dental appointments should be scheduled when school is not in session. This is to ensure that your child is provided with the maximum amount of instructional time possible.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS A DISCIPLINARY INCIDENT AT SCHOOL?

In the event your child is involved in a situation at school which requires an office referral (fighting, inappropriate behavior, disrespectful behavior), the school will undertake an investigation at the time the incident is reported to a staff member. A parent/guardian will be contacted if the incident is significant or involves an injury. Some conflict is part of a normal school day and we support students in building conflict resolution skills during teachable moments. When a parent is contacted, please realize that we will only discuss your child. It is a breach of confidentiality to discuss any other child, or the consequences that another child may receive.



Potential bullying situations are handled differently and should be reported immediately to the Principal or Vice Principal or via the online reporting form found at www.brookline.k12.ma.us/domain/685

IMMUNIZATIONS

Every state has their own vaccination requirements. Psbma (via school nurse) provide separate information and vaccination / history checks for new students and you can also find more here:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/immunization-requirements-for-school-entry-1/download>

Whilst PCPs, pharmacies and walk-in centres can also provide, you may find it easier to use the (by appointment only) school-required, vaccination services of the Pediatric Immunization Clinic at Brookline Public Health Department at Pierce Street. This includes Flu immunizations but excludes Covid 19.

It is available to children a) living or attending school in Brookline b) ages 2 - 18 and c) by appointment only. These are federally funded and administered free of charge to eligible children.

<https://www.brooklinema.gov/1508/Pediatric-Immunization-Clinic>

Follow this link to [Schedule a Pediatric Immunization appointment](#) OR to [schedule a flu clinic appointment](#)

EMERGENCY DRILLS AND EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Fire Drills, Options Based Drills and Evacuation Drills are done routinely throughout the year with the supervision of the Brookline Fire and Police Departments. The evacuation site for Driscoll School is the Temple Beth Zion on Beacon Street. The Town uses a system called FinalSite, which makes automated phone calls to advise families of emergency situations. Register with the Town to be notified in case of emergency (www.brookline.bbcportal.com). During all drills, students are expected to be quiet, carefully listen for directions and stay with their class.

The School and the PTO are required to maintain separate contact lists. Even if you have provided information to the school, the PTO or parents may ask for your email address or phone number because the school cannot release this information.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS & PARTIES, DRISCOLL FIELD RESERVATIONS

To avoid hurt feelings, party invitations may not be distributed at school or afterschool programs, unless all the children in the class are invited. Room Parents can only provide full class lists on this basis. Otherwise consult the Driscoll Directory (it is an opt in-system), see further section.

Please do not gather children at the school for birthday parties or other events which do not include all the children in the class. Please discuss any in-class celebration with your child's teacher.

To book the school field (availability limited due to third party sports activities) contact Brookline Recreation Office at 617-730-2069 <https://www.brooklinerec.com/218/Reservations>

LOST & FOUND

It happens! Those mysteriously lost and found items are kept on a table and rack by the back (field) entrance to the school, in the hallway near the top of the gym stairs. Found items not collected will be donated throughout the year.

DRESS CODE

Our dress code is intended to help students maintain a consistent focus on learning.

Students may not wear clothing with obscene or inappropriate graphics or writing.

Students should wear clothing that does not serve as a distraction in any way to learning; bellies and bottoms should be appropriately covered during warmer seasons and undergarments should not be visible at any time.

During physical education classes, students should wear sneakers and refrain from wearing jewelry.

RULES WE SUCCEED BY

BE SAFE

SHOW RESPECT

WORK HARD

WORK TOGETHER



School Rules Posters based on work of staff and Driscoll Leadership Team; illustrated by a third grade student

Whether you are a family that is new to our school, or are returning to Driscoll, we look forward to working together to maintain a school community that is safe, caring and academically challenging. To get the year off to a smooth start, please take time to review some basic rules with your child.

SAFETY FIRST

We do not run in the hallways and we are careful on the stairs. We make choices that ensure that we are safe and that others around us are safe too.

WHEN YOU GIVE RESPECT, IT IS RETURNED TO YOU

We all need to care for each other. We need to remember how powerful our words can be. We are thoughtful when choosing our words and speak with kindness.

WE LIVE HERE. LET'S TAKE CARE OF OUR SPACE

Our custodians take very good care of our building. To keep our building clean, teachers, families and students are expected to use recycle bins, throw garbage in trash cans, and help keep the hallways and bathrooms clean.

DRISCOLL STUDENT HABITS

REFLECT ~ I think deeply about what happened.

EXPLORE ~ I take responsible risks.

CONNECT ~ I use my skills to make things better.

IMPROVE ~ I use my skills to make things better.

PERSIST ~ I stick to it, even when the work is hard.

SOCIAL CURRICULUM AND BULLYING PREVENTION

All students participate in conversations and activities in their classrooms that help them develop the skills they need to navigate social situations and keep themselves and others safe. In our K-5 classrooms, we use the Responsive Classroom curriculum to support this work. In grades 6-8, we use an advisory structure. At Driscoll we have clear expectations and protocols for prevention of and intervention for bullying-like behavior.

The Driscoll PTO also funds the **Understanding Our Differences Program** across all fourth grade classes. This is a model, interactive disability awareness curriculum which teaches children to “see the person and not the disability.” The curriculum covers Blindness and Low Vision, Deafness and Hard of Hearing, Autism, Physical Disabilities, Intellectual Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, and Chronic Medical Conditions (such as Allergic Conditions, Asthma, Diabetes, and Epilepsy).

THE HOME-SCHOOL CONNECTION - STAY INFORMED, BE INVOLVED



We know from experience that parent involvement is essential to maximize the benefits the child gets from his or her school experience. We urge you to stay involved by participating daily in your child's education by: talking with your child about his/her school experience, helping with your child's homework or projects, attending school meetings and conferences, volunteering with the PTO or in your child's classroom and to help build a supportive Driscoll community ethos.

GET THE SCOOP – READ IT, 'INSTA' IT, SHARE IT

There are many opportunities to get involved and stay connected to the Driscoll community.

- **SCHOOL WEBSITE:** www.brookline.k12.ma.us/driscoll - offers school news and announcements, contact information, faculty emails, links to school and town programs, and the Google Calendar.
- **PTO WEBSITE:** www.driscollpto.org - provides information about PTO sponsored events at the school, volunteer opportunities, fundraising goals and efforts, and community news.
- **PTO WEEKLY e-BULLETIN:** Look in your inbox Monday mornings for the latest news about PTO and School events, spotlights on special interest news, community news, town events and classifieds. This is an extensive and wonderful mode of communication that will keep you connected and in the know! If you are not getting the e-Bulletin, send an email to driscollbulletin@gmail.com to be added to the e-mail list.
- **PTO is on INSTAGRAM (@driscollschoolpto) ON FACEBOOK (DriscollSchoolPTO)**, especially if you prefer more visual and individual reminders of key events.
- **SCHOOL-WIDE EMAIL BLASTS:** As events and activities come closer, you may receive emails with updates, changes, and urgent news for the PTO and/or the School as they happen so you are in the loop. Email is our preferred method of communication as it is immediate and saves paper and time. We think that more news from school is better than no news!

'FinalSite' - IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, SCHOOL CLOSINGS, AND DELAYS

The Town of Brookline uses a system called FinalSite, which makes automated phone calls to advise families of school closings or delays or any other urgent or emergency situations. Occasionally, we use the FinalSite system to make announcements. If you would like to change the contact number for these automated calls, please contact Kim Longmore in the main office at 617-879-4250.

MAKING PAYMENTS AND DONATIONS TO THE SCHOOL AND PTO

To the the School e.g. Field Trips - checks made payable to “Driscoll School” handed to office or teacher with consent forms.

PTO

Give Lively - Donations and Annual Family Giving Campaign click [here](#)

Venmo @DriscollPTO (under business) - please make clear what this is for e.g.” Grey Hoodie Adult Small student/Class Yr&Letter” or G8 sales stall” etc.

Checks - Made payable to Driscoll PTO and left at the school office for PTO mailbox (as above)

DRISCOLL MERCHANDISE

There are sales stalls throughout the year to purchase Driscoll Merchandise e.g. seasonal fairs, parent-attended events and at school pick up times. We communicate when/where via the bulletin and social media. You can also review merchandise and place and order using this [Link](#) (under PTO/About / Resources). Orders can be delivered to student’s class.

CALENDARS (Psmba, Driscoll, PTO)

Psbma <https://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/page/2#calendar5161/20250819/month> (with information on how to get auto feeds from web/school calendars into device calendars)

Driscoll <https://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/Page/16>

PTO <https://www.driscollpto.org/calendar> with information on how to add auto feed to your device. A draft PDF calendar for new terms is [here](#): *(subject to some changes and will be updated on google PTO calendar when finalized).*

REGULAR SCHOOL/PTO MEETINGS Sponsored by the PTO

The Driscoll PTO is a community for **all** parents and teachers alike. Regularly, the School along with the PTO Executive hosts at least one of the following to try to accommodate parents’ different availability:

- an informal coffee morning over zoom
- a face to face coffee after drop-off (8am)
- an evening event at DEDP pick up times with pizza.

A school representative will also be in attendance. These are to discuss topics of interest to the Driscoll community. Some will feature guests from inside the school, including the principal and teachers, and some will feature outside speakers.

Look for dates, zoom info and details in your weekly e-Bulletin and also whether there is childcare cover in the school for kids for an evening event (sometimes supported by Grade 8 students).

Anyone from the community is also welcome to attend the bi-monthly PTO Executive meetings (usually a Monday at 4pm) if they contact driscollpto@gmail.com in advance, as space is limited.

DRISCOLL DIRECTORY published by the Driscoll PTO

The Driscoll Directory contains the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for each child and family arranged by individual classes. You will be asked to opt-in on the school portal Aspen

(<https://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/parentportal>, see also 'updating contact info' on last page's FAQs).

We will also ask you to provide your contact preference for your directory listing in the fall. This valuable resource is the easiest way to keep in touch with other members of the Driscoll Community.

COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHERS

Open and frequent communication between home and school helps enhance your child's learning. We encourage you to reach out early during the year and to continue regular conversations with teachers, especially if you have a concern. Communication is key in dealing with most issues. Please make contact with your child's teacher first to resolve classroom issues. If the problem is not resolved, please contact the guidance counselor, Vice Principal or Principal.

Specific opportunities for parents to learn more about their child's school and classroom experience are:

- Open House
- Online Platforms, Virtual Shares, Community Meetings
- Parent-Teacher Conferences

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION VIA EMAIL, PHONE AND IN PERSON

Email provides a quick and convenient way for those with email access to communicate with each other. Email is an appropriate means to give teachers or parents basic information about a simple situation, to make appointments or to provide a quick check-in regarding behavior or academics. In certain instances, however, a phone call or meeting is the most effective and appropriate means of communication. Teachers are asked to keep emails brief and to set up an appointment or make a phone call if a situation cannot be explained in a short email, or if email responses have not been sufficient in solving an issue.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES AND PROGRESS REPORTS/REPORT CARDS

Parent teacher conferences are an important opportunity for communication and planning between school and home. Conferences are scheduled twice yearly (in late fall and spring) in grades K-5. Grades 6-8 have conferences by appointment. 8th grade parents and students participate in a high school orientation program in the spring.

In grades K-5, teachers schedule parent conferences with parents. Parents are encouraged to contact any teacher or the school's guidance counselors to schedule conferences at other times. Alternative hours are offered for conferences to accommodate working parents. In grades 6-8, conferences with teachers are by appointment.

Teachers fill out conference reports for students in grades K-5. Progress is recorded mid-year and in June. Students in grades 6th-8th receive letter grades quarterly that are published in the parent portal online. You can also call the office for a paper copy of your child's report card.

OPEN HOUSE – CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

This event is a chance for parents to meet the teachers, Room Parents, and staff and to learn about the curriculum plans for the year. A notice with the date and time for your child's grade will be sent home.

K-5 COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Community Meeting is a time when K-2nd grade and 3rd-5th grade students come together to celebrate our community, sing songs, and share things they have been working on. Each class will have a chance to host a Community Meeting over the course of the year. The meeting ends with everyone singing our beautiful Driscoll School Song. Meetings are in the multipurpose room on certain Friday mornings, and start at 8:10 am. Check School Calendar for dates!

Our goals for community meeting are the following:

- Provide students with a safe space to practice making presentations to a large group
- Allow students to lead each other
- Provide students with an opportunity to work on being good audience members
- Build community (parents, students, teachers) across grade levels
- Allow students to see what goes on in other classrooms, and grade levels

CURRICULAR OFFERINGS BEYOND THE CORE



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Our curriculum is based on the Learning Expectations for the Public Schools of Brookline, which are benchmarks indicating what each child should know, understand and be able to do by the end of each year. These are aligned with the Massachusetts State Standard. Teachers will provide an overview of the curriculum and benchmarks at the Fall Open House. They can also be found online at www.brookline.k12.ma.us.

TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM AND INTEGRATION

The technology program integrates technology into the curriculum across all grade levels. It provides the necessary resources, experiences, and support for both students and teachers to develop technological skills in an ever-changing digital world. Students and teachers have access to technology throughout the day. Chromebooks are located in the K-5 classrooms, and in grades 6-8, students carry their assigned Chromebook throughout the day and are expected to charge the device at home.

LIBRARY AND MEDIA CENTER

The Driscoll Library has an extensive collection of print resources (over 24,000 titles!), videos, and audio books as well as a bank of computers connected to the Internet for educational use. Students visit the library for library classes, and are welcome before and after school during posted hours. Students in 3rd grade and younger must be accompanied by an adult when visiting the library outside school hours.

MUSIC EDUCATION Driscoll students are offered music twice/week

Students are provided with opportunities to experience music and develop an understanding and appreciation of a variety of musical genres and skills through active participation in singing, playing instruments, listening, moving, analyzing and composing. Grades K-5 participate in general and vocal music. 4th grade students choose an instrument in addition to general music. 5th grade students have an option of band, orchestra or chorus in addition to general music, which they continue into 6th-8th grades.

ARTS CURRICULUM All students are offered art once/week

The K-8 Visual Arts Curriculum teaches students to develop skills in both two and three-dimensional mediums experiencing a variety of artistic materials and concepts, which are integrated into other areas of academic studies. The overall goal of the curriculum is to inspire confidence in each student's ability to interpret and understand visual arts, and to become creative problem solvers and critical thinkers in visual terms. Each year we hold a Driscoll Art Show including artwork from every student in the school as part of the Driscoll PTO's Arts Equinox, our annual school-wide two-day art festival.

WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Driscoll offers Mandarin and Spanish as a course in grades 6, 7 & 8. 5th grade students will have the option to choose which language they would like to study in middle school.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION All students are offered PE twice/week

Physical Education is a part of the total education program that contributes, primarily through movement experiences, to the total growth and development of all children. It is an instructional program that gives attention to all learning domains - psychomotor, cognitive and affective.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS



At Driscoll, we believe that every student should have the opportunity and support to succeed in school. We provide the tools and resources necessary for students with a range of learning needs to access the curriculum and grow as students and members of the Driscoll community.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE Education (ELE)

The ELE program at Driscoll School provides English instruction to students whose first language is something other than English. Students work on improving their English proficiency, including reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Any family who needs translation services for anything school-related (verbal or written) should contact the main office or ask the ELL teacher.

SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR, ADJUSTMENT COUNSELOR, AND PSYCHOLOGIST

There is a school psychologist whose primary role is to provide psychological assessments as part of the special education process and also serves as a consultant to staff and students in the regular education program. Support services fall into three categories: (1) Long and short term school-based individual counseling or social skills groups; (2) Parent consultation for social, emotional and academic concerns and referral to outside counseling and other services; (3) Teacher Consultation or short-term whole class lessons. Driscoll's guidance counselors, adjustment counselor, and school psychologist can be reached by calling the main office.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

If a student meets the requirements to qualify to receive special education services an "Individualized Education Plan" (IEP) is proposed. This document serves as a guide for support and progress. Support services are delivered within the regular classroom settings as well as in separate small groups outside of the classroom with specialized, individualized instruction through trained special education teachers. More information on the IEP process can be found by contacting the Team Facilitator at 617-879-4272.

Academic Learning Centers provide academic support programs for identified students. Related service providers such as a speech and language pathologist, occupational therapist, adaptive and physical therapist provide additional services according to student need.

LITERACY AND MATH SPECIALISTS

The literacy specialists and math specialists provide a range of services, including direct instruction to students who need extra help in reading, writing, and/or math. These specialists also serve as a teacher resource, providing guidance on the best practices in their field. Specialists also help teachers in assessing students' performance levels and in making instructional decisions based on formal and informal assessment data.



BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES FOR DRISCOLL STUDENTS

DRISCOLL AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (DASA) Offered by the Driscoll PTO

A PTO run program, DASA offers after-school enrichment classes for Driscoll students in all grades, providing one-hour classes in art, science, exercise, technology, music and programming, with the goal of enhancing the learning experiences for kids. Classes meet once a week for three 8-week sessions throughout the school year. DASA classes are a great way for students to grow socially and meet friends with common interests. Registration is online and information is sent to parents via email from the PTO. More information can be found at www.driscollafterschool.weebly.com.

DRISCOLL EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM (DEDP)

DEDP provides a safe, supportive environment for childcare during the after school hours that fosters children's social, emotional, physical, and creative growth serving grades K-5, Monday thru Friday until 6pm. DEDP offers a wide variety of materials and activities such as arts, crafts, games, sports, dedicated homework help, science, cooking, and gardening. For more information, contact Abbie Fennell at driscollprogram@gmail.com or progam@dedpbrookline.org or 617-738-4632. More information can be found at www.dedpbrookline.org. (This is a tuition-based program that is a separate entity from Driscoll School and the Driscoll PTO).

HOMEWORK CENTERS

6th to 8th grade Homework Center provides a quiet, supervised place for middle school students to complete their homework. Students enroll after a teacher recommendation. Parent requests for attendance at the homework center are considered on a case-by-case basis, based on available spots, as space is limited,

EVENTS, TRIPS, PROGRAMS AND EXPERIENCES

SCHOOL SPONSORED PROGRAMS

FIELD TRIPS

Students take a variety of culturally and educationally enriching field trips during the school year. There is often a cost associated with field trips which can be paid for by check (made payable to Driscoll School) which can be submitted along with the parent/guardian consent form which provides all the information. All students should attend the field trips, regardless of cost. Please contact the Principal or Vice Principal directly if you need assistance with the cost of field trips.

THE FARM SCHOOL OVERNIGHT TRIP

Our school has developed an ongoing relationship with the Farm School, a working farm in Athol, Massachusetts, established to teach children about all aspects of farm life. Children visit the Farm School for overnight stays two times: in 5th grade and 8th grade. There is a fee for this trip and all children are encouraged to participate. Please contact the Principal or Vice Principal directly if you need assistance with the cost.

SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES

Driscoll School holds a number of special assemblies throughout the school year, such as community meetings, the Winter Concerts, Spring Concerts, and the Eighth Grade Musical.

MATH COUNTS

Math Counts (grades 7 & 8) are parent or teacher-led programs that allow students to deepen their math skills, stretch themselves in critical thinking and compete at a town level. The meeting schedule depends on the volunteer who is responsible. Sometimes practices are in the morning and some years they have been held after school. Driscoll families love Math and we do quite well in competitions each year!

SPORT: CROSS COUNTRY, TRACK & FIELD, FIELD DAY, INTRAMURAL

In addition to providing physical education for students, Driscoll offers opportunities for students to be active beyond the classroom. Interscholastic sports teams include volleyball (fall), basketball (winter), and either kickball or ultimate frisbee (spring), which are available for students in grades 7 & 8. Cross-country (fall) and track and field (spring) meets are open to any student in grades 5-8. Physical Education teachers also provide open gym time and intramural sports at various times throughout the school year.

SPIRIT DAYS

We are a proud community and it shows in our Driscoll Spirit. We have spirit days various times throughout the year and for a number of reasons. Some spirit days have been “Crazy Hair Day”, “Pajama Day”, or “Mixed Up Shoes Day”. It is fun and creative, but participation is always optional.

PTO SPONSORED PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

A community for all. These exciting and highly anticipated events are a great asset at Driscoll, but are only made possible through successful fundraising and parent volunteer support. Please complete the Volunteer Form (PTO website/ about / Get involved)! Remember, it is an investment in your child's academic experience.



LIBRARY SUPPORT

Parent volunteers are essential to ensure that library books are in good shape and circulating so our kids have every opportunity to find their next favorite book. Whether you have an hour every week, every other week or once a month, you can make a difference in the education of Driscoll students. Just stop by the library's circulation desk or e-mail our librarian, Ms. Anne Reid (anne_reid@psbma.org), to arrange a time to help.

NEW PARENTS' BREAKFAST

All new Driscoll parents are invited to join members of the PTO and the Administration as they welcome you to our vibrant community and share the many opportunities for parent involvement at Driscoll.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PICNIC

The entire Driscoll Community is invited to a bring-your-own picnic supper on the local park during construction at the beginning of the school year. The picnic is a great way to meet other families, teachers and watch your kids make new friends and reacquaint with old ones. This is a free event, outside of school hours.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Every year during Teacher Appreciation Week, the PTO hosts special surprises for all Driscoll teachers, administration and staff. The festive fun, which takes place in the teachers' lounge, is prepared and run by parents.

FALL FLING/TRUNK OR TREAT

Kick-off the school year with a fling! Bring the whole family to Driscoll for a free, fun-filled evening of activities, snacks, dancing to the DJ's beats and socializing and fun treats from decorated car trunks. Teachers and staff are invited to get grooving with the kids. This is a free event, outside of school hours.

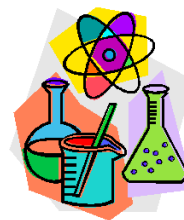
BOOK FAIR

The Driscoll Book Fair runs for one week. Classes visit the fair during school hours: younger grades write out "Wish Lists", while older grades may bring their own pocket money. Parents can visit at any time, including after school hours. All proceeds from the Book Fair benefit the school's Library and reading groups.

SCIENCE SOLSTICE

It's a "Science Solstice" celebration: a whole day devoted to science. Kids practice scientific methods, get a glimpse of the detailed work that leads to scientific discovery and a taste of how scientific knowledge is created.

Grades K-5 learn scientific methods as they build electric circuits, practice on a medical



simulation mannequin, or build geodesic domes with straws. At the end of the day, they respond through writing and drawing about the question: “What do scientists do?”

The 6-8 grades explore local research labs or facilities. Students tour one or two working labs, such as an engineering facility, a bio-tech start up, or a university research lab. In many tours, students participate in hands-on activities. Students write reflections about their lab’s research questions, how math and writing skills are used in the research, and how the research connects to the larger world.

SCIENCE FAIR

Science Fair is a parent-run weekend science event. Students across all grade levels have the opportunity to design and carry out science projects in their choice of scientific field: computers, biology, physics, environment, chemistry, math, architecture, astronomy, engineering, modeling, robotics: any area of science is welcome. Judges working the field of science interview the student presenters about their projects and provide feedback to science fair presenters. Students are welcome to work individually or in groups of 2 to 3.

ARTS EQUINOX

In celebration of the Spring Equinox, we hold a school-wide celebration of the arts. From visual to performing arts and everything in between, the school opens its doors to a wide array of artists from within and outside the school. Our children are swept up in a creative swell of classical, ethnic and contemporary music, visual art, dance, performance art, video making, and animation workshops...all activities aimed at feeding their creativity and enriching their imaginations. Parents set up a “Green Room” in the teachers’ lounge serving treats and snacks to teachers, staff and volunteers. This event is free to all yet requires a lot of parent volunteers to help with the workshops (no artistic talent is needed).



SPRING FAIR

An end-of-year celebration in a traditional outdoor fair style event brings the entire Driscoll community together with games, rides, food and entertainment. Rides for all age groups are set up at a local park; games, activities and food cover the blacktop. The DJ blasts music while the kids fill the air with laughter! The event is open to the entire Brookline community. 100% parent volunteer support is needed to make this event a success.



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS)

The SRTS parent volunteer works to increase safe biking and walking for students by using a collaborative, community-focused approach that bridges the gap between health and transportation. There is an approximately one (1) hour monthly Brookline SRTS Task Force meeting that occurs during the school year. The meeting is attended by the SRTS parent volunteers and teachers representing the town’s K-8 schools and BHS, and representatives from the School Committee, Transportation Division, Police Department, Public Health Department, and the PSB Facilities Department. During this meeting issues, accomplishments, and goals are collaboratively discussed. The SRTS parent volunteer summarizes the meeting in the Driscoll Bulletin, and works with the Driscoll administration and others to accomplish the goals and initiatives set during the meeting.

THE DRISCOLL PTO COMMUNITY – PARENT & TEACHER STRONG!



All Driscoll parents and teachers are members of the PTO community. With hundreds of us, parents and teachers, we are able to do wonders to enhance our children's academic experience and benefit from the positive energy from the social events. Many friendships are fostered at Driscoll, not only between children, but also parents. A great way to meet people is to BE INVOLVED with the PTO!

The PTO is your voice and venue to be involved and heard. The Driscoll PTO aims to foster interest in the life of the school and provide a means for parents to be involved; promote cooperation, communication and unity of spirit among parents, faculty, staff and students; and encourage understanding concerning the School's objectives and curriculum.

Our fundraising efforts combine raising money and having fun. One of our major fundraising periods is the annual Family Giving Campaign (Spring). Our goal is 100% family involvement, understanding that every family's circumstances are unique; no amount is too small and contributions of time also valuable. Money raised by the PTO funds the special events detailed above, but it also allows the PTO to offer direct financial support to the school: twice a year, teachers are able to request grants for additional classroom supplies, professional development opportunities (such as workshops and conferences), plus so much more!

Here is a list of some of the components the PTO funds beyond the main programs outlined previously:

- Beginning of year supplies for classrooms
- Class Challenges (2024/5 was The Dragon Challenge - Bouncy Obstacle Course (for \$ pledges)
- Additional musicians for holiday concerts
- 8th Grade Musical and Graduation Party (Funded in part by PTO)
- Field Trip Scholarships
- Additional art supplies
- Library materials and "Cuddle Up & Read" program
- Special Events
- Teacher grants for special projects
- Monthly parent coffees
- Additional technology materials
- Contingency support for student needs not provided by psbma for academic year due to budget constraints
- And much more

Note: some activities carry vendor costs due to professional health and safety & risk assessment needs or the IT platforms required. PTO also actively tries to support local vendors wherever possible.

There are numerous ways to get involved with the PTO, on a one-time basis at one of the various events held throughout the year, or on a more regular basis on the Executive Board. Our goal is to have every family volunteer at least one time a year. The success of each event depends on parent volunteers and participation, and offers a unique way to experience your children's school experience.

Sign up to volunteer with us at driscollpto@gmail.com or visit **Get Involved** on the PTO website 'about' section..

The Driscoll PTO needs all your help to achieve its goals and benefit the community.

THE PARENT CONNECTION

Room Parents are parent volunteers who help improve communication channels and provide support. Each class should have one or two Room Parents. Contact driscollPTO@gmail.com if you would like to be one.

ROOM PARENTS

These parents help their teacher by supporting them as requested. They might be asked to organize special events during the school day, reach out to parents for classroom supplies or other items for projects needed by teachers, or to coordinate gift-giving at the end of the year. They also act as representatives of the PTO, by forwarding information to the class parents and recruiting volunteers for PTO events. Room Parents are encouraged to attend PTO General Meetings to remain up-to-date on what is happening and pass this information along to other parents. They are a vital communication channel in keeping all parents aware of all the activities and issues at school. It is also a great way to stay involved with your child's class and get to know their teacher! Room Parents also meet with the Principal and the PTO Room Parent Coordinator twice a year.

Goal of Role: Organize support for teacher, school and PTO

Supporting the classroom teacher's needs:

- Helping with class events
- Organizing if there is a "wish list" of supplies (Kleenex, art supplies, etc.)

Being the voice of the PTO for your class:

- Recruit volunteers and drum up support
- Getting the word out about what's happening

Organizing class gifts (if any)

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Go to the School website, www.brookline.k12.ma.us/driscoll and [Class/Staff List](#) to contact any faculty via email. All email addresses follow the same pattern: *Firstname_Lastname@psbma.org*

Main Office	617-879-4250	
Principal, Mr. David Youkilis	617-879-4250	david_youkilis@psbma.org
Vice Principal, Melissa Lyons	617-879-4250	melissa_lyons@psbma.org
Secretary, Ms. Kim Longmore	617-879-4250	kim_longmore@psbma.org
Guidance Counselors:		
Ms. Carrie Hibbard (K-2)	617-879-4256	carrie_hibbard@psbma.org
Ms. Hannah Goldberg (3-5)	617-879-4160	hannah_goldberg@psbma.org
Jacquelyn Lavigne (6-8)	617-879-4160	jacquelyn_lavigne@psbma.org
Angela Berlingeri, Adjustment Counselor	617-879-4258	angela_berlingeri@psbma.org
School Nurse, Ms. Marianne Dewing	617-879-4257	marianne_dewing@psbma.org
School Librarian, Ms. Anne Reid	617-879-4260	anne_reid@psbma.org
School Psychologist,	617-879-4259	
Middie School and PTO Support		Marina Bottiglieri mfbott@comcast.net
Lunch Liaison, Gabrielle Stefura	617-879-4266	gabrielle_stefura@psbma.org
DEDP Coordinator,	617-738-4632	program@dedpbrookline.org
METCO Liaison, Veronica Kimbro	617-879-4258	veronica_kimbrow@psbma.org

Superintendent, Dr. Bella Wong	617-730-2401	bella_wong@psbma.org
Parent for New Parents contact*	857 352 4373 Nic Russian*	nic.russian@gmail.com

PTO CONTACTS

PTO Co-Chairs	Kim Loscalz, Beth Gilligan, Eavan Dixey	driscollpto@gmail.com
PTO Secretary	Nicola Russian	driscollpto@gmail.com
PTO Co-Treasurers	Hui Li & Kathrene Bell	driscollptotreasurer@gmail.com
PTO Bulletin (and to sign up/contribute)		driscollbulletin@gmail.com
DASA Coordinators	Transitioning from Shasa Yazigi to TBC	driscollafterschool@gmail.com

GENERAL QUESTIONS...DON'T KNOW WHO TO CONTACT?

For educational or student wellbeing issues, you should refer to the **teacher** in the first instance (see overleaf)

If you have a question or concerns about a grade-wide issue, contact your **Room Parent**.

If you can't figure out whom to contact, send your question to the PTO Executive at driscollpto@gmail.com; someone will get back to you promptly.

* If you are a new parent to the school (especially e.g. new to Brookline area or starting after school year commences) and would appreciate informal information on living in Brookline, navigating health insurance, local resources for parents and kids, useful places to work away from office etc, please contact Nic Russian (as above), an international (from UK) parent at Driscoll. She can add you to the specific whats app group and confirm informal meet-ups. School /PTO contacts should be contacted for in-school /PTO specific needs and questions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT WHO TO CONTACT?



You will find information and many answers on our School and PTO websites. We are regularly updating it with school news, PTO updates and happenings in our community from the DOE to local area events.

Town website: www.psbma.org
 School website: www.brookline.k12.ma.us/driscoll
 PTO website: www.driscollpto.org

How do I report my child's absence?

Contact the Main Office (617-879-4250). Please send an absence note with your child when he/she returns.

How do I update my contact information if it changes?

The Public Schools of Brookline's Aspen Parent Portal <https://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/parentportal> allows families to update student information, view and print Progress Reports and Report Cards and see student records. It is also where you can review your child's/rens information and complete the Contact and Consent Verification process and confirm your data protection preferences. For speed, also update the School office by email at the same time.

Because the school cannot share your data with the PTO, you need to update the main office and the PTO if your information changes:

1. Contact Ms. Longmore in the Main Office AND
2. Send an email to driscollPTO@gmail.com. You should also let your class Room Parent know so they can update the class list.

Whom do I speak with if my child has a problem in school?

Any concerns about your child should be directed to the teacher first. If the issue cannot be resolved, only then please contact the guidance department. If the problem persists, then contact the Vice Principal or Principal (617-879-4250).

My child has an issue with classwork/homework.

We encourage you to send a note to the teacher in your child's homework folder or by email to set up an appointment. Please do not discuss with a teacher at drop off or pick up as this distracts them from other students.

Questions about computers, software, passwords for my child? Education Technology (617-879-4250).

Question about school lunch? Contact : Lunch Liaison (617-879-4266)

Question about the School Bus? Contact the main office (617-879-4250); for METCO: 617-730-2464

Concerned that your child may be having difficulty socializing or is unhappy in school? Contact our Guidance Counselors, Carrie Hibbard (K-2) at 617-879-4256, Hannah Goldberg (3-5) at 617-879-4160, or Jacquelyn Lavigne (6-8).

I would like to volunteer to help the school. See PTO website (About/Get Involved)/email driscollPTO@gmail.com

Mr. Youkilis & Ms. Lyons and any member of our amazing faculty and staff are happy to meet with you any time to discuss any issues. You should always feel welcome to set up an appointment with them. You are also welcome to contact any of our PTO members with concerns, questions, and ideas or just to socialize.