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# THE PARENTS' PRESS

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Duke Memorial Weekday School | January 2025

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## Mark your Calendars:

Jan 8: PC Meeting  
Jan 13 & 14: Open House for prospective families  
Jan 20: MLK Day  
NO SCHOOL  
Jan 27 & 28: Parent-Teacher Conferences  
NO SCHOOL  
for students

## Looking ahead:

Feb 2: DWMS Pasta Dinner  
Feb 7: Registration Deadline to retain priority

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to DMWS! I hope your family had a lovely holiday break. Our teachers have many wonderful seasonal activities planned for January. Be sure to ask your child about sensory, music, fitness and art activities they are doing at school. The kind gestures by parents and children during December were much appreciated by the staff. The Holiday Luncheon sponsored by the Parents' Council was a highlight! You have made us feel so loved!

On January 27 and 28, the teachers are excited to meet with you (virtually or in person) on conference days to share information about your children and answer questions you may have. Please be sure to sign up for a conference with your child's teachers if you have not yet done so. Applications for next year will be sent home via school bags this year. If you need a sibling application, let me know. Remind your friends and neighbors that tours can be scheduled to see our program and we invite applications from the public. Information about priority status in the registration process is found later in this newsletter and in our handbook. Applications for Tuition Assistance are available from the office at any time. For 2025-2026, Tuition Assistance Applications are due by May 1, 2025 and are handled by the Board of Directors. Emergency Assistance Applications can be submitted at any time during a school year.

Wishing your family a Happy and Healthy New Year,  
Julie



# Important Registration Information for 2025-2026

Registration for next year officially begins on January 29. In order to hold a spot for 2025-2026 at the time of registration, you will pay a registration fee. **All registration fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.**

During the week of January 21-24, you will receive an application for each of your currently enrolled children through their school folder. Applications for siblings may be requested from the office. Priority for registration is as follows:

- Current Students
- Siblings of current students
- Children of church members/ministerial staff
- Children and grandchildren of DMWS faculty/staff
- Siblings of former DMWS students
- Children and grandchildren of DMWS alumni
- Children of current PMO teachers and DMUMC support staff
- General Public

In order to retain priority, your completed application must be received by the February 7<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Tuition rates and registration fees for 2025-2026 were set by our Board of Directors in December.

Class offerings for each age level are determined by initial enrollment numbers.

We may be able to offer the following:

- Kindergarten (5 days)
- Pre-K (5 and 4 day classes)
- 3's (5, 4, 3, and 2 day classes)
- 2's (5, 3, and 2 day classes)

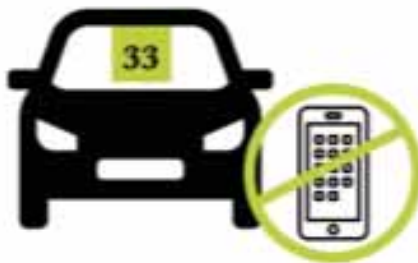
## DMWS Tuition Payments

Tuition payments are due each month on the first and past due on the tenth. Payment options include check, cash, credit card (on-line via website) and automatic draft. Checks and cash payments are encouraged because our school does incur additional fees to process the credit card and ACH payments.

## Carpool Reminders

Carpool line helps us get our students in and out of the facility safely and efficiently. Please help us by prominently displaying your carpool tag (with the number facing forward) as soon as you enter the side parking lot. It is easiest for us to see the number if the carpool tag is hanging from your rearview mirror. Our carline is a cell free zone. Please do not attempt U-turns on either West Chapel Hill Street or Memorial Drive.

Also remember that we must keep the bike lane open and refrain from blocking intersections.



## Remind Texting Service

Remind is a free messaging tool to help educators communicate with parents. Parents can opt in to receive texts from the school in the event of an emergency (fire, etc). It will also be used in the event of school cancellation/delay in addition to email notification.

## Find us on Google and Review!

Hey DMWS Families- We all love our school and our teachers, so we need your help sharing that with the Durham community to assist with recruitment to our school We want to continue to keep our classes full with happy, fulfilled kids. By filling out Google reviews you can help the school's marketing effort and share your own experiences with families throughout the Triangle. Parents have so many choices when it comes to choosing schools for kids- help them see why we all love Duke Memorial Weekday School!

## DMWS Class Quilt

### Featuring handprints of Kindergarten Class of 1996-1997

For Advent, Duke Memorial UMC put out a request for quilts to display in the Sanctuary. The DMWS Quilt that hangs in our office was loaned to the church during Advent and has graced the Sanctuary for the past few weeks.

For the DMWS Silent Action in early 1997, a kindergarten parent had the children in the class make handprints and then made this quilt to include in the Silent Auction. Several kindergarten families went in together to purchase the quilt. They then presented it to the kindergarten teachers as a gift. The quilt was first displayed in the kindergarten classroom and was moved to the DMWS office so more people could enjoy it.

## Fun Facts from DMWS

Director Spotlight: Caroline Sasser worked at DMWS for 22 years before retiring in 1992. Upon her retirement, the Durham Herald-Sun ran a feature article about her time at DMWS. She taught kindergarten for 5 years and creative art/movement for 2 years before becoming the director. Our kitchen was renovated several years ago and is named in her memory. Her granddaughter Lucy Sasser is one of our substitute teachers and her great grandson Wes currently attends DMWS.

## DMWS Inclement Weather Policy

The Director will determine if Duke Memorial Weekday School should be open, closed, or operate on a delay in the event of inclement weather or extenuating circumstances, using Durham Public Schools as a guideline. **This means we will not always follow Durham Public Schools.**

Factors considered when assessing whether to close, open on time or on a delay include, but are not limited to: teacher availability to fulfill Safe Sanctuaries requirements, the condition of Memorial Drive/sidewalks along Memorial Drive, and timing of the inclement weather event. Parents should check for cancellations/delay information on WTVD and WRAL. Attempts will be made to notify all families by email and Remind text. The decision as to whether or not Duke Memorial Weekday School opens on a delay will be made with the utmost consideration of safety of all of our families and staff members. Duke Memorial Weekday School will build up to 4 makeup days into the school calendar. Use of these makeup days is at the discretion of the Director.