

THE PARENTS' PRESS

Duke Memorial Weekday School | September 2025

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sept 19: All Forms Due

Sept 29: NO LUNCH BUNCH- Staff Meeting- Can Opener Meetup

Sept 30 & Oct 1: Fire Truck Visit

Oct 6 & 7: School Picture Days

LOOKING AHEAD

Oct 9: Pre-K & K Field Trip

Oct 16 & 17: Teacher Workdays-No School for Students

Oct 26: Fall Gathering



Dear DMWS Families,

Welcome to DMWS for our 75th year! The staff of DMWS is excited to partner with your family during your child's preschool experience. Over the summer, staff members have been at work making classrooms ready for your children. We also had lots of painting done and even set up a new classroom for 4 day 3's! The office has moved across the hall to the space once used as the teacher workroom. A smaller office space means the sign-in/sign-out area is now in the hallway by the office door.

Safety of the children and staff is very important to us. Please remember our carpool line is a **CELL FREE ZONE**. This includes all parking lots. If you walk across Memorial Drive with your child, please remember to use the crosswalk and hold hands. Also remember that we cannot block the bike lane on West Chapel Hill Street.

DMWS welcomes several new staff members this year. Leslie Cavallini and Amanda Waldrop join us as our new 5 day 2's team. Holly Johnson will work as an assistant teacher in the 4 day pre-k with Amy Ludwig since Peggy Britt will now be the lead teacher for a 4 day 3's class. Her assistant is Elizabeth Miller. We also have a new music teacher-Caitlyn Kauffman. In addition, DMWS now has a floater to assist staff. Longtime substitute teacher Sara Hinshaw is filling this role. We are very fortunate to have these wonderful additions to our staff. Be sure to check out the staff photos on the school website.

Visit our website, <https://dmws.org>, to keep updated on important information and access the 2025-2026 Handbook. You may also choose to pay your tuition by credit/debit card through a secure link on our webpage. The payment link can be found under the ADMISSIONS tab. Payment may also be made check, money order, or by auto-draft. If you did not receive an auto-draft form by email earlier in the summer, please contact the office.

I look forward to our 75th school year and am so glad to have you and your child as part of the Duke Memorial Weekday School family. Feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions.

Julie Allen
DMWS Director



DMWS IS 75!

In 1950, the Education Committee of Duke Memorial UMC began a nursery school program for 5 year olds as preparation for kindergarten. Over the years, the preschool expanded to serve children ages 2-kindergarten. To celebrate 75 years of serving children in Durham, DMWS will have special activities throughout the year. In October, we will have a week of fun for past and current DMWS staff and families. On the evening of October 24, there will be a celebration for adults at Croasdaile Country Club. The event will be a great way for us to honor our rich history while raising funds for our tuition assistance program. Be sure to see the Save The Date in this newsletter. On October 26, Parents' Council will host our annual Fall Gathering. Special activities for the children will follow during the week of October 27-31, culminating with our annual Halloween Parade. Watch your email and our website for additional information and scheduling of commemorative events throughout the year.

Thank You Parents' Council

Many thanks to our Parents' Council for their work to build community and raise funds for tuition assistance and special purchases. With funds raised last year, DMWS has been able to purchase items to enhance your child's preschool experience. Items include new doll strollers, books for our library, a child-sized couch and chair set, cozy coupes for the playground, building toys and a reading cube.

DMWS Tuition Assistance

DMWS is pleased to offer tuition assistance to families who demonstrate need. Yearlong assistance can cover up to 50% of a child's tuition. These applications are due by May 1 each year (or at time of enrollment). Emergency assistance applications may be submitted any time a need arises. Funding for tuition assistance is built into the yearly budget with added funds from Parents' Council proceeds each year. The DMWS Board of Directors determines the recipients of our tuition assistance funds. All applications/awards are kept confidential. Families interested in applying for assistance should contact the school office to obtain application forms.

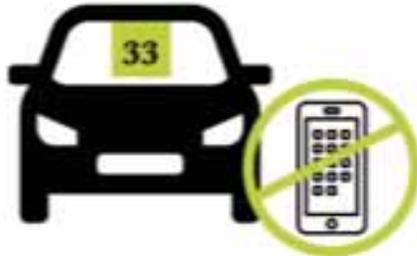
The family of Connie Eva established a scholarship in her memory after she passed away in August 2019 after a brave battle with cancer. The scholarship was awarded for the first time in May 2020 and uses the same need-based criteria as our regular tuition assistance fund. Connie Eva taught kindergarten at DMWS for 27 years until her retirement in May 2017. She involved the students in many engaging activities, including plays that gave the children experience with drama. The DMWS family named the stage in her honor upon her retirement.

Monthly Parent Meetup

Lunch Bunch is cancelled the last Monday of each month for a Staff Meeting. This year instead of a playdate at Burch Park following dismissal, eat and gather with other parents at the Can Opener for lunch located at 201 S Gregson St.

Carpool Reminders

Carpool 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. Our carline is a cell free zone. Please do not attempt U-turns on either West Chapel Hill Street or Memorial Drive.



Parking at DMWS

Please use the paved parking lot on Memorial Drive if you need to park and walk across the street. The spaces in the row closest to Duke Street are reserved for Church World Service employees.

DMWS is Peanut-free

No Peanuts or peanut butter will be allowed in DMWS classrooms. Children who bring lunches to school for Kindergarten or Lunch Bunch may use other nut butters (cashew butter, almond butter, sunflower seed butter, etc.)

Did you know?

You can help support the school by linking your accounts to DMWS:



WANT TO ADVERTISE?

If you have a business you want to promote to the school community, consider an advertisement in the monthly Parents' Press. Quarter page ads are \$10/month.

Email dmwsparentscouncil@gmail.com for more information.

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.

To receive text messages, parents should text @dukemem to 81010 or (828)394-2095. Parents can unsubscribe at any time.

DMWS Carpool Line



CARPOOL LINE IS A CELL-FREE ZONE AT ALL TIMES. STAY FOCUSED AND KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE.



Three cars at a time pull along curb for loading.



Wait at stop sign for next turn in loading zone. Please have your carpool number displayed.



There is no left turn into the parking lot. Follow the route around the police station.



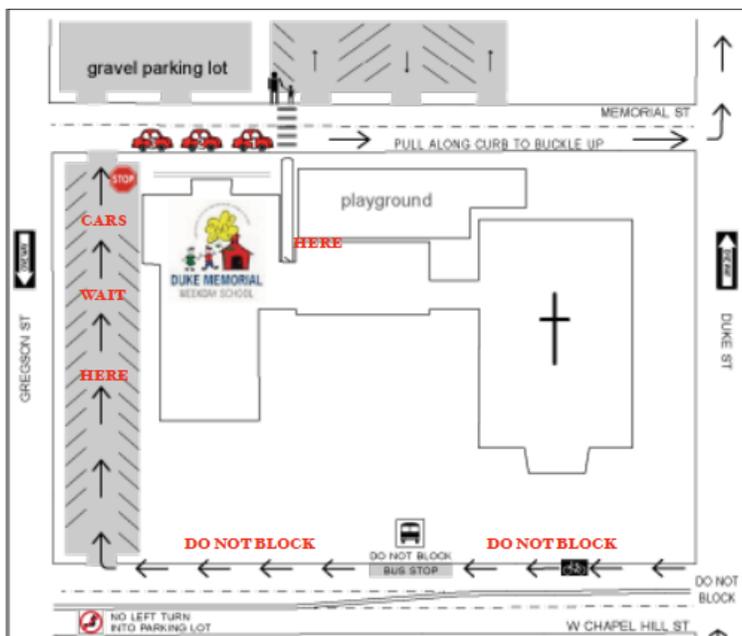
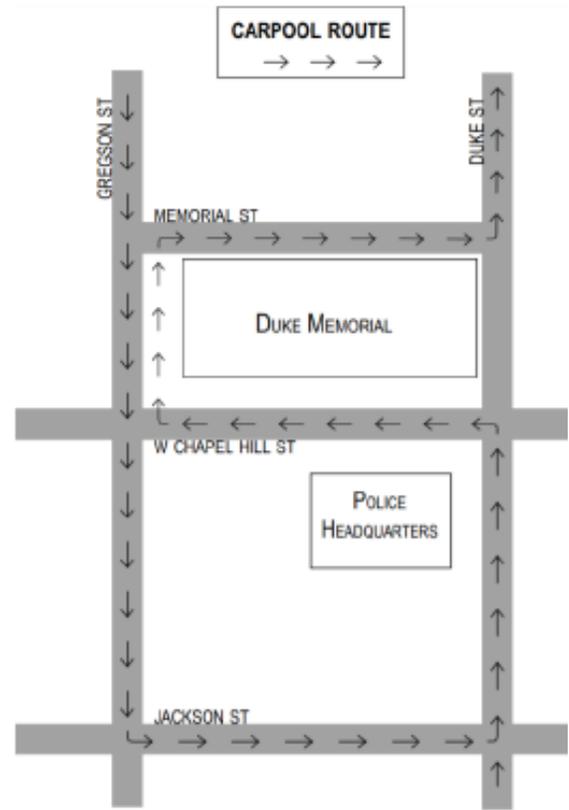
Carpool line occupies the bike lane. **Do not block the bus stop or the Duke St intersection.** If the line is full, repeat the loop around the police station.



Parents walking to pickup should line up along the sidewalk with their carpool number in hand.



Use crosswalk at all times. Do not cross between advancing carpool cars.





SAVE THE DATE
BIRTHDAY PARTY & SILENT AUCTION
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025

CROASDAILE COUNRTY CLUB, 6-9pm
Including Cocktail Hour, Dinner,
& Silent Auction for our Tuition Assistance Fund

If you have a potential auction donation,
contact julieallen@dmws.org

INVITATION TO FOLLOW

Due to limited venue space, we kindly request only adults attend