
THE PARENTS' PRESS

Duke Memorial Weekday School | November 2025

Mark Your Calendars

Nov 5: Parents' Council Meeting

Nov 7: Book Mobile Visit

Nov 10-14: Double Good
Popcorn Fundraiser

Nov 11: Veterans Day
No School

Nov 21: Board of Directors
Meeting

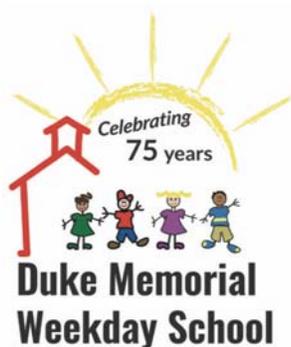
Nov 24: Staff Meeting
No Lunch Bunch

Nov 26-28: Thanksgiving
No School

Looking Ahead

Dec 3: Kindergarten Open
House 2026-27 at
12:15 RSVP

Dec 15: Staff Meeting
No Lunch Bunch



Dear DMWS Family,

October was amazing! Not only did we have visits from the fire department, a field trip to West Point on the Eno for K and Pre-K, school photos, a terrific Fall Gathering and 2 wonderful Halloween Parades but we were also able to kick off our 75th Celebration! Our Week of Excitement began with a fun Gala to raise funds for our Tuition Assistance Fund and included Spirit Days and a Legacy Luncheon with former staff members.

November looks to be busy as well with Friendship Feasts, cooking activities involving cornbread and pumpkin as well as a focus on thankfulness. Note that we do not have school on November 11 or November 26-28.

As we move into cooler weather, illnesses such as flu and colds tend to increase. Please help us keep our community healthy by getting appropriate seasonal vaccines and keeping sick children home. Unfortunately, the one thing kids love to share is germs! Also remember that our playground is very chilly in winter months so be sure to send your children with coats, hats, and mittens (all labeled).

DMWS still has a few openings in our Pre-K and K programs. If you know anyone looking for a wonderful preschool for their child, be sure to give them my contact information. We are also starting to give tours for the 2026-2027 school year so let your friends and neighbors know.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving Holiday!

Julie Allen

DMWS Director



DMWS Celebrates 75 Years!

Thanks to all of you who have made our recent 75th celebrations so much fun. The Gala to raise money for our tuition assistance program was a huge success. Many thanks to the Gala Committee led by Lindsay Roberts. Other members were Kat Murray, Sabrina Sasser, Chesley Sneed, Amy Wilson and Julie Allen. Brian and Anna Murphy chaired our 50/50 raffle. Samantha Martinez created a video about our school. The October 24 event was filled with wonderful food, amazing silent auction items and lots of opportunities to connect with one another.

Sunday afternoon, October 26 was filled with fun on the playground (everyone loves a great bounce house!), opportunities to tour classrooms and a terrific show by a magician. Thanks to our Parents' Council for organizing this event.

On Monday, October 27 we hosted a Legacy Luncheon so former staff members could join in the celebration. Current and former staff were able to connect and look through some of the archives of photographs. What a wonderful way to spend an afternoon!

As this school year continues, we will celebrate our 75 years as a preschool so be on the lookout for more fun events!

Kindergarten Open House Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 12:15pm

DMWS will hold an Open House for parents to learn more about DMWS kindergarten. There will be an opportunity to see the classroom, speak with the lead teacher, and ask questions.

Please call the office at 919-688-5130 or send an email to julieallen@dmws.org to register for this in-person event. Depending on the number of attendees, a second Open House may be scheduled.

Partnership with Duke OT Students

DMWS is thrilled to be in partnership with students in the Occupational Therapy Program at Duke University. As part of their capstone experience, the students end their semester in a community placement so they can apply their knowledge and skills while supporting the Durham community. DMWS is honored to be able to provide a pediatric placement opportunity for these students during the week of December 8-12.

Five students are assigned to DMWS to collaborate with our teachers. We anticipate hosting other OT students in May and during summer camp. What a wonderful opportunity to learn from each other and share insights and strategies that will impact our students!

Lunch Bunch Suggestions

All lunches should be peanut /peanut butter free. DMWS is not able to microwave food for students. Please keep in mind that your child should be able to manage the food they bring and the containers used. Finger foods are best. Children need to be able to feed themselves. Please refrain from using glass containers-we have had several break when knocked off of tables.

These are suggestions of easy items for you to pack.

- Apple Slices, Clementines (peeled and ready to eat) Grapes (Please cut up so they are not a choking hazard)
- Sun Chips, Pretzels, Triscuits, Wheat Thins or Veggie Straws
- Pepperoni slices
- Carrots or Cucumber slices with ranch
- Applesauce pouch or cup
- Cheese stick or cheese cubes/slices
- Peeled Hard-boiled eggs
- Pita Bread with Hummus
- Granola Bar
- Turkey & Cheese rolled in a tortilla or on bread
- Ants on a log (celery with cream cheese and raisins)
- Yogurt
- Sliced vegetables (sweet pepper, avocado, cherry tomato, etc)
- Dried fruit Muffin or slice of Banana Bread
- Turkey wrapped mozzarella cheese stick
- Trail Mix (Cheerios, raisins and mini marshmallows)
- Pineapple
- Chicken Nuggets
- Waffle or Mini Bagel with Sunbutter or Cream Cheese
- Slice of pizza
- Fruit Salad
- Cheese Quesadilla
- Reduced sugar fruit snacks

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 cancelations/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.

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.

Carpool Reminder

For the Safety of the children, please keep the following in mind:

1. Carpool line is a cellphone free zone.
2. Do not exit your car from the driver's side while your car is in a loading/unloading position. After you pull up to buckle, you may exit your car if needed. Memorial Drive is a city street and is used by many cars daily.

NC Car Seat Safety

North Carolina has specific laws regarding car seat safety for children. These laws are summarized below.

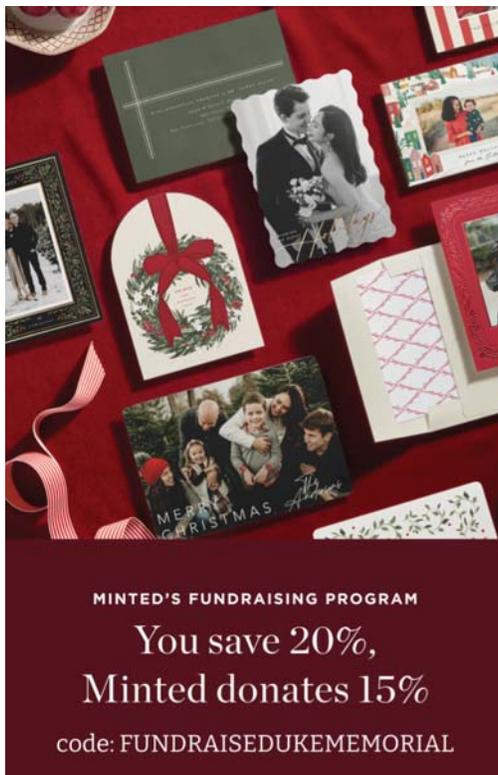
- For birth to 12 months – Infant-only rear-facing car seat
- Ages 1 to 3 years – Rear-facing car seat until the child reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by the car seat manufacturer, then transition to a forward-facing car seat. For most rear-facing seats, often that's 35 pounds or 35 inches. Please check manufacturer information for your specific seat.
- Ages 4 to 7 years – Forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether until the child reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by the car seat manufacturer, then transition to a booster seat
- Ages 8 to 12 years – A child should remain in a booster seat until they are big enough to fit in a seat belt properly

Duke Memorial Christmas Market

The Duke Memorial Christmas Market is a one-day, low-cost holiday shopping event for Durham families with limited financial means. It gives parents an opportunity to give Christmas gifts to their children and honors their dignity by letting them do the shopping themselves. It gives donors a chance to share God's love and experience the true meaning of Christmas. This year, the Christmas Market will be on **Saturday, December 6**.

Our shoppers are families who receive services from our partner agencies such as Urban Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, Families Moving Forward, etc. Our partners distribute shopper passes to families (1 pass per child) based on need and circumstance. Any proceeds from the Market go back to the agencies that distribute the Shopper's Passes, a "bonus" gift for everyone involved.

If you would like to participate, you may either drop off gifts in carline or walk the gifts in to the office. Remember that places like Ollie's, Big Lots, and TJ Maxx are great places to get more bang for your donated buck! Dolls, super heroes, block sets, and cars/trucks are all good choices. Any gifts should be delivered to the church by November 25.



Minted Holiday Card Fundraiser

Use our code FUNDRAISEDUKEMEMORIAL to save 20% on your Minted order and 15% of your order total will be donated to Duke Memorial.

Orders can be place at www.minted.com



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.