



2019-2020 Back to School Newsletter

We are already preparing to begin another school year! Please find on the pages below information regarding the first day of school, lunch prices, early release days, open house nights, and additional information which might prove to be helpful as you prepare to send your student to school. Remember you can always visit our website at any time throughout the school year at www.portsmouthschoolsri.org for upcoming events and news.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Welcome Back! The first day of school for students is Tuesday, September 3rd. For a copy of the 2019-2020 school year calendar, please click here: [Portsmouth School Year Calendar](#)

SCHOOL HOURS

The school day schedule for students K-12 reflects a 6.5-hour day. The hours of the schools remain the same as prior years and are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Hathaway and Melville: | 8:45 AM – 3:15 PM |
| Portsmouth Middle School: | 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM |
| Portsmouth High School: | 7:25 AM – 1:55 PM |

BUS SCHEDULES

The 2019-2020 Bus Schedule will be available on our website.

MONTHLY EARLY RELEASE SCHEDULE

In our continued pursuit of exceptional student achievement and professional excellence, the Portsmouth School Department will schedule early release days, which are scheduled on the following days: September 18, October 16, December 11, February 12, March 18, April 22, May 20.

The School dismissal times on the Student Early Dismissal Days will be as follows:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| AM Pre-K: | 8:30 AM to 11:15 AM |
| PM Pre-K: | 12:30 PM to 3:15 PM (no early release for pre-K) |
| Grades K-4: | 2:15 PM |
| Middle School: | 1:30 PM |
| High School: | 12:55 PM |



NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION, FRESHMAN ORIENTATION AND OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULES

Hathaway

- August 26 - New Student Orientation, 1:00 PM- 2:00 PM
- August 27 - Kindergarten Orientation, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM
- September 19 - Open House, 5:00-6:30 (5:00-5:45 A-L Families, 5:45-6:30 M-Z Families)

Melville

- August 23 - Kindergarten Orientation 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
New Student Orientation (Grades 1-4) 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM
- September 26 - Open House (All Grades) 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Portsmouth Middle School

- August 26 - New Student Orientation (Grades 5-8) 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- September 11 - (Grades 5 and 8 Open House) 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
- September 12 - (Grades 6 and 7 Open House) 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Portsmouth High School

- August 27 - Freshman and New Student Orientation (8:00 AM – 12:00 PM)
(optional cookout to follow 12:05 to 12:30 for \$5 provided by senior class)
- September 19 - Open House for Grades 9-12 (6:00 PM - 8:00 PM)

PARENT PORTAL

For online access to your child's school schedules and grades, please sign up to use our Parent Portal. The Aspen Portal is found on the parent tab of both the [PHS website](#) and [PMS website](#). The portal is available for parents of grades 5 through 12 only. High School students will be able to create their own accounts as well.

VOLUNTEERS IN SCHOOL (VIS)

We welcome volunteers in our schools for information please see the parent tab on our website or [click here](#).



FREE AND REDUCED MEAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Portsmouth School department utilizes the federal guidelines for determining eligibility of children who may receive free and reduced price meals served under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp>) Application forms with a letter to parents are available at the Portsmouth School Department office, at your child’s school office, or accessed online here: [Free and Reduced Lunch Downloadable Application](#). Families can apply **ONLINE** here: [Online Free and Reduced Meals application](#).

The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility and verifying data.

Applications from families receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly the Food Stamp Program) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) need only to list the children’s names, respective case number, and the signature of an adult household member.

Applications may be submitted any time during the school year. If you are not eligible now but have a decrease in income, become unemployed, have an increase in family size, or become eligible for SNAP or FDPIR benefits, you may fill out an application at that time.

LUNCH PRICES AND NUTRIKIDS

| | | Breakfast | Lunch |
|------------|---------|------------|--------|
| Elementary | Paid | \$1.00 | \$2.60 |
| | Reduced | \$0.30 | \$0.40 |
| Middle | Paid | \$1.25 | \$2.85 |
| | Reduced | \$0.30 | \$0.40 |
| High | Paid | \$1.25 | \$2.85 |
| | Reduced | \$0.30 | \$0.40 |
| Adult | | A la Carte | \$3.25 |

The Portsmouth School Department offers an online prepaid food service system. This service provides parents with the opportunity to deposit money into their student’s school meal account at any time.

NUTRIKIDS is the District’s Point of Sale (POS) system that provides families with the ability to deposit payments into their child’s account, view and print their children’s account balances. Parents also have the ability to print out a copy of their child’s purchasing history report. This report lists all dates and times that your child has purchased a breakfast, lunch, milk and snacks within the past 90 days. In addition, families automatically receive low balance email notifications once they have set up that feature. Simply go to www.myschoolbucks.com and setup your child’s account.