



DALTON ELEMENTARY

# School Handbook

FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

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2023 – 2024

6335 N. Mt. Carrol St., Dalton Gardens, ID 83815  
(208) 772-5364 • [www.cdaschools.org/dalton](http://www.cdaschools.org/dalton)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Message from the Principal	4
A Brief History of Our School	5
School Bell Schedule	6
Dalton School Culture	6
<a href="#">Who to Call List</a>	7
Attendance Expectations	9
Attendance Matters	9
Notify the Front Office of Any Absences	9
Behavior Expectations	9
Dress Code	9
Electronic Devices/Cell Phones	10
Bus Procedures	10
Technology Agreement for Students	10
General Information	11
Change of Address/Phone Number	11
Field Trips	11
Library Services	11
Lost and Found	11
Skyward Family Access	11
Safety & Security	11
Visiting our School	12
Safety	12
Emergency Drills	12
Snow Days/Closures	13
Bullying Prevention Initiative	13
School Resources	13
School Nurse	13
Medications at School	14
Illness Guidelines	14
School Counselor	14
Hope on the Homefront	15
School Lunches	15
Parent Groups/Volunteering	15
2023-24 Dalton School PTA	15
Sign Up to be a Volunteer	15



# A Message from the Principal

Dear Dalton Families,

John Maxwell once said, “Leadership is not about titles, positions, or flow charts. It is about one life influencing another.” It is in this spirit I begin my sixth year as principal of Dalton Elementary School. As a resident of Dalton Gardens and parent of two former Dalton Dragons, I have a vested, long-term interest in the success of the school; I am thrilled to be a part of the strong Dalton team!

Prior to becoming an administrator, I spent twelve-and-a-half years in the classroom, eleven of which were at Canfield Middle School teaching eighth grade language arts. I began my teaching career in Buckeye, Arizona, teaching seventh grade language arts. For four years before taking the helm at Dalton in 2018-19, I served as a vice principal at Ramsey Magnet School of Science (2014-15) and Canfield Middle School (2015-18). At both schools, I had the opportunity to grow under effective principals and develop my administrative skills. Three core values help me balance my instructional and organizational leadership: the fostering of relationships, a focus on teaching and learning, and a commitment to continual improvement.

Just as I did in the classroom as a teacher, I strive to lead Dalton with high expectations, warm rapport, consistent visibility, and regular communication. I hope to know all of our Dalton families. I also hope you partner with the Dalton staff and me to create fertile ground for your child to reach his/her fullest potential: a kind, hard-working, and strategic reader, thinker, and learner who has a growth mindset and shows some grit during challenging lessons. We cannot do it without you! As a staff, we will work hard to create a safe, positive learning environment. As a school leader, I will be visible as often as I can in classrooms, hallways, lunchroom, playground, and pick up lines to get to know our students and families, to ensure safety, and to assess learning and growth. I will also be a learner alongside our staff and students. I expect all of us—myself included—to continue to grow and develop. To that end for the 2023-24 school year, our staff will focus intently on becoming a Professional Learning Community.

Dalton is a special school. I hope you feel the sense of family and the positive vibe palpable in our halls when you visit. Enjoy the student work that adorns our hallways. Enjoy the happy buzz of learning. Our hallways are frequently filled with our amazing families, Watch Dog Dads included, who take time to help out in the classroom and during special school or grade-level events. Because of the strong partnership, there is no limit to our achievement possibilities. Again, we could not do it without you!

I look forward to working with you during the 2023-24 school year. Together, let’s make it one of remarkable learning for our students. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you have questions, concerns, kudos, or ideas.

With gratitude,

Jody Hiltenbrand  
Principal  
[jhiltenbrand@cdaschools.org](mailto:jhiltenbrand@cdaschools.org)

## A Brief History of Our School

Some students rode ponies to the original Dalton School! It opened its doors in 1909 and enrolled 32 students in two classrooms, first through eighth grade. According to *The Dalton Story* by Marvin Shadduck, “The building was considered quite modern even though it had no indoor lavatories and very few school supplies.” It also had no electricity! The building was heated with a large wood-burning furnace. One precedent set early on was sharing the building with the community. Two other rooms in the school were devoted to the community for social gatherings and fundraisers. Former students and Dalton residents remember the large school bell, which was hung in a belfry at the rooftop and could be heard a mile away when it rang. In 1949, Dalton School joined Coeur d’Alene School District #271. The original 1909 building was closed to make way for a new wing in 1961; enrollment at that time tallied 185 children. The school bell was relocated to Dalton City Hall.

Dalton Grade School was built in 1961 on the same grounds as the 1909 structure. “The old ‘barn’ was removed and a major remodel, including a new gym, was completed in 1999” (Shadduck, 2003). The 1909 school bell made its way back to Dalton Elementary in 2007.

Today, Dalton Elementary School enrolls around 390 students. Thanks to our generous community, who approved a bond in 2016, Dalton underwent nearly a full remodel in the summer of 2018. The project finally added spaces for art and music in the building, including a stage for intimate performances. All classrooms received a makeover, the library relocated to a new space, and construction added three new classrooms for second grade. It was quite an exciting time at Dalton!

Over the years, Dalton Elementary School has become known for its tight-knit community. Teachers often stay in the building for decades. They rave about their students and families. When someone walks into the building on any given day, he/she can feel a positive energy, see smiling staff and students, and converse with many a parent volunteer or a WatchDog Dad. The Dalton community sets high expectations for respectful behavior, hard work, and school achievement, and the staff works closely with families to help students reach their potential. The PTA helps lead school activities and raises funds throughout the year to supplement building and teacher budgets. Dalton staff is grateful for the partnership of families; it does indeed “take a village”.

#### Works Cited

Shadduck, Marvin E. *The Dalton Story*. Museum of North Idaho, 2003.

## School Bell Schedule

The schedule below is subject to change.

*(Mondays in parentheses unless specified.)*

8:40 (9:40) Supervision begins  
8:55 (9:55) Entry bell  
9:00 (10:00) School begins/Tardy bell

10:40 – 10:55: Recess for 2, 3  
10:55 – 11:10: Recess for K, 1  
(10:40 – 10:55: Recess for K, 1)

### **Recess and Lunch Times: Monday**

12:00: K Recess 12:20: K Lunch  
12:10: 1st Recess 12:30: 1st Lunch  
12:20: 3rd Recess 12:40: 3rd Lunch  
12:30: 2nd Recess 12:50: 2nd Lunch  
12:40: 5th Recess 1:00: 5th Lunch  
12:50: 4th Recess 1:10: 4th Lunch

### **Monday PM Recess**

1:50 – 2:05: Recess for 1-3  
2:20 – 2:35: Recess for 4, 5  
(on their own): K Recess

### **Recess and Lunch Times: Tuesday ~ Friday**

11:45: 4th Recess 12:05: 4th Lunch  
11:55: 1st Recess 12:15: 1st Lunch  
12:05: 5<sup>th</sup> Recess 11:45: 5<sup>th</sup> Lunch  
12:15: K Recess 11:55: K Lunch  
12:35: 2nd Recess 12:55: 2nd Lunch  
12:55: 3rd Recess 12:35: 3rd Lunch

### **Tuesday ~ Friday PM Recess**

2:05 – 2:20: Recess for 1-3  
2:20 – 2:35: Recess for 4-5  
Recess for K: on own

3:30 Dismissal

## Dalton School Culture

### **Dalton Mission Statement**

Together, we will create a joyful learning environment, educating the whole child, encouraging each to be a lifelong contributor in a changing world community.

### **Dalton B's**

- Be safe
- Be respectful
- Be responsible
- Be kind
- Be honest
- Be determined
- Be courageous
- Be joyful
- Be enthusiastic
- Be creative

School focus is on the first three above. *No weapons, threats, or physical aggression.*

### **Dalton Elementary School Motto**

A Neighborhood School Experience!

## Who to Call List

For Skyward Family Access, attendance (absences, tardies), student records, school fees, registration, and volunteering, please contact our Office Staff at (208) 772-5364 or via email addresses listed below:

Office Manager Debra Albrecht [debra.albrecht@cdaschools.org](mailto:debra.albrecht@cdaschools.org)  
Secretary Jason Lind (part-time) [jason.lind@cdaschools.org](mailto:jason.lind@cdaschools.org)  
Attendance Secretary (part-time) [angie.medbery@cdaschools.org](mailto:angie.medbery@cdaschools.org)

For counseling-related issues, please contact Counselor Tami Frantzich at 208-772-5364 or [tfrantzich@cdaschools.org](mailto:tfrantzich@cdaschools.org).

For classroom-related questions or issues, please contact your child's teacher (call 208-772-5364 or email the teacher at the respective email address below).

Kindergarten	Carly Boutelle Karissa Wise	<a href="mailto:cboutelle@cdaschools.org">cboutelle@cdaschools.org</a> <a href="mailto:kjwise@cdaschools.org">kjwise@cdaschools.org</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Jill Higgins Larissa Newton	<a href="mailto:jhiggins@cdaschools.org">jhiggins@cdaschools.org</a> <a href="mailto:lnewton@cdaschools.org">lnewton@cdaschools.org</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Wendy Astin Brandi Pankoke	<a href="mailto:wastin@cdaschools.org">wastin@cdaschools.org</a> <a href="mailto:brandi.pankoke@cdaschools.org">brandi.pankoke@cdaschools.org</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Laura Siegford	<a href="mailto:lsiegford@cdaschools.org">lsiegford@cdaschools.org</a>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Justin Taylor Rocky Schultz	<a href="mailto:jntaylor@cdaschools.org">jntaylor@cdaschools.org</a> <a href="mailto:rschultz@cdaschools.org">rschultz@cdaschools.org</a>
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Michele Rutherford Ranee Woodall	<a href="mailto:mrutherford@cdaschools.org">mrutherford@cdaschools.org</a> <a href="mailto:kwoodall@cdaschools.org">kwoodall@cdaschools.org</a>
4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Jennifer Cleave	<a href="mailto:jcleave@cdaschools.org">jcleave@cdaschools.org</a>
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Deborah Essex Kelli Ogle	<a href="mailto:dessex@cdaschools.org">dessex@cdaschools.org</a> <a href="mailto:kogle@cdaschools.org">kogle@cdaschools.org</a>
Special Education	Kelly Osler	<a href="mailto:kosler@cdaschools.org">kosler@cdaschools.org</a>
Advanced Learning	Joy Shoup	<a href="mailto:jshoup@cdaschools.org">jshoup@cdaschools.org</a>
Music	Aaron Hayes (Mon. PM/Tues./Wed. AM) Marilyn Giffitts (Mon. AM)	<a href="mailto:ahayes@cdaschools.org">ahayes@cdaschools.org</a> <a href="mailto:mgriffitts@cdaschools.org">mgriffitts@cdaschools.org</a>
Art	Vernon Harvey (Thursday) Beth Schultz (Mon./Tues.)	<a href="mailto:vharvey@cdaschools.org">vharvey@cdaschools.org</a> <a href="mailto:beth.schultz@cdaschools.org">beth.schultz@cdaschools.org</a>
PE	Beth Schultz (Wed./Thurs./Fri.)	<a href="mailto:beth.schultz@cdaschools.org">beth.schultz@cdaschools.org</a>
Reading Specialist	Kim Shaw	<a href="mailto:kshaw@cdaschools.org">kshaw@cdaschools.org</a>

For questions regarding the library, please contact Librarian Sheila Fuchs at (208)772-5364 or via email at [sfuchs@cdaschools.org](mailto:sfuchs@cdaschools.org).

For questions about the cafeteria or breakfast/lunch fees, please contact Kitchen Manager Brenda Soderling at (208) 772-5364 or [bsoderling@cdaschools.org](mailto:bsoderling@cdaschools.org). If you want to order lunch, please order by 10 am. Thank you!

If you have transportation questions, please call the Bus Barn/Transportation Dept. at (208) 667-3451.

If you want to join the PTA or help out with a school event, please consider joining the PTA! Membership forms are located in our foyer or are available via the PTA webpage: <https://www.cdaschools.org/domain/960>. When you join, you will be added to the PTA membership email list. Cost is \$10.

If you need to communicate with the principal or assistant principal, please contact Principal Jody Hiltenbrand at (208) 772-5364 or via email at [jhiltenbrand@cdaschools.org](mailto:jhiltenbrand@cdaschools.org) or Assistant Principal Thomas Staples at (208) 772-5364 or via email at [tstaples@cdaschools.org](mailto:tstaples@cdaschools.org). If you want to speak with either in person, an appointment is recommended.



# Attendance Expectations

## Attendance Matters

Daily attendance is important for every single student in our school. Did you know that your student's achievement is at risk if he/she misses too much school? Did you know you make teacher's job harder to catch your child up when he/she misses? Did you know school funding can be noticeably affected by chronic absenteeism? If you are experiencing tough times, please reach out. Our school district has resources available to help solve many issues. Let's make the very most of this school year!

## Notify the Front Office of Any Absences

Please log into your Skyward family access account to mark your student absent. Or you can email the office staff at [dalfax@cdaschools.org](mailto:dalfax@cdaschools.org) or call (208) 772-5364. Please let us know prior to school starting. If you call, please leave a voicemail if we are unable to answer. We will listen to voicemail messages before we make calls home to check on unexcused absences. Thank you!

# Behavior Expectations

## Dress Code

Our School Board has adopted a comprehensive dress code. The following are some highlights from the full policy.

- Articles of clothing with inappropriate logos such as obscenities, vulgarities, offensive remarks, and advertisements of controlled/illegal substances or activities are prohibited.
- No hats or sunglasses shall be worn in the building.
- Bandanas and bandana headbands are prohibited.
- Footwear shall be worn at all times. (Sandals or flip flops are unsafe for P.E. Appropriate footwear is recommended.)
- Tank tops and other tops or dresses must have wide straps (2.5 inches/no spaghetti straps) and high-cut arm holes. Tops should not be low cut or revealing. Tops must be waistline length with no midriffs or skin showing. Shirts must be worn at all times.
- No undergarments may be showing.
- Shorts and skirts are to be mid-thigh length or longer. Mini-shorts or skirts are prohibited. Slits or rips must be below mid-thigh.
- Accessories that may be used as a weapon are prohibited.
- Sleepwear cannot be worn to school—including slippers.

For more information, see the District Handbook for Parents and Students or Policy 3255 on Dress Code in its entirety on the district website ([www.cdaschools.org](http://www.cdaschools.org)).

## **Electronic Devices/Cell Phones**

If your child brings a cell phone or smartwatch to school, it needs to be off and in his/her backpack while on school grounds. If you need to contact your child during the day, please call the office. Students can only use the office phone with permission from their classroom teacher.

Please make sure your students know how they are getting home after school each day. Discussing after-school plans with your children before leaving home each day allows us to keep the phone lines open for emergencies. If you need to let your child know about after-school arrangements, please contact the school before 2:30 pm so we have enough time to notify your child.

## **Bus Procedures**

In a continuing effort to provide the safest ride possible for your children, our district's Transportation Department has developed a list of safety rules for students who ride the bus. Please go over these rules with your children. To the school bus driver, any distraction is a safety hazard.

To print and download the safety rules and the Transportation Department's discipline program guidelines, or for bus route and late bus information, visit <https://www.cdaschools.org/Domain/281> or call (208) 667-3451.

## **Technology Agreement for Students**

We expect our students to be good digital citizens and follow the expectations detailed in the district's Student Technology Use Agreement, signed by each student at the beginning of the school year. If you wish to revisit that document, or for more information about digital citizenship and data privacy in our schools, visit <https://www.cdaschools.org/domain/1715>.

For more information, see the District Handbook for Parents and Students, Policies 3265 and 3270.

# General Information

## Change of Address/Phone Number

Please make sure we have your current contact information so we can reach you in the event of an emergency, update, kudos, or concern.

This information can be changed online by logging into Skyward. If you have forgotten your password, or need extra assistance, please call our front office at (208) 772-5364.

## Field Trips

During the school year, there may be times when our instructional program will be taken out of the classroom and into the community.

When you first registered your child for school in our district, you were asked to agree to or deny permission for your child to participate in school field trips. Unless you have updated this information, prior authorization is assumed. Through published calendars, newsletters, and special notes, we will inform you of the time/date of each field trip prior to the event. This will give you the opportunity to be in touch with your child's teacher if you have questions or decide your child should not participate.

## Library Services

Library hours are from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm on Tuesdays - Fridays and 9:30 am - 3:30 pm on Mondays. Each week, students visit the library with their class. At that time, guidance is given to our Dalton students as to reading selections and reading level appropriateness, but we do need parents' help. Our school's library books come in a variety of interests and maturity levels to meet the needs of all Dalton students. Please talk with your children about the books they are reading to ensure the content is appropriate for their reading level. Everyone here at Dalton is excited to foster a love of reading in every student. ~ Mrs. Sheila Fuchs, Dalton Librarian (208) 772-5364 or [sfuchs@cdaschools.org](mailto:sfuchs@cdaschools.org)

## Lost and Found

The Dalton Lost and Found is located near the east entrance to the Multipurpose Room/Cafeteria (closest to the office). It is in the hallway for easy access. When you visit Dalton, please check it for any items your child may have lost at school. It becomes overloaded frequently. We will provide ample notice for you to check it before we periodically donate items to charity. We encourage students not to bring valuable items to school! Dalton is not responsible for lost or stolen valuables. Students should keep such items at home.

## Skyward Family Access

The Coeur d'Alene School District is proud to offer the power of Skyward Family Access to the parents of our students. This tool links parents and schools via the Internet where you can get up-to-date attendance, update address and phone numbers, add funds to students' lunch accounts, and pay for cross country and yearbooks online.

You can log in to Skyward Family Access at <https://skyward.cdaschools.org>. For help with access or passwords, please contact the front office at (208) 772-5364.

# Safety & Security

## Visiting our School

Our district uses the Raptor tracking system to help protect your children. District policy requires that all visitors entering a school during school hours be screened with this program. This applies to our parents, volunteers, and community visitors.

The Raptor software uses information from the visitor's driver's license or state ID card to check the sex offender database from all 50 states, including Idaho, and saves the name in the data system. Please follow these procedures:

- When you visit our school during school hours, the doors should be locked. Push the button to let the front office staff know you are here, face the device, and if asked, explain your visit.
- Enter through the front doors to the main building. Never enter a building through a back door or playground entrance.
- Be ready to provide a driver's license at the front office each time you visit.
- Sign in at the front office.
- Receive a visitor's pass/badge. Please wear your pass/badge at all times while in the building.
- Remember to sign out and return the badge when you leave.
- Once inside our school, never open the front or side doors to admit another visitor.

Thank you for cooperating and supporting the safety of our students, staff, and families.

## Safety

Our district holds the safety of our students and staff as a top priority. We encourage all our parents to visit the district's Safety & Security channel to learn more about the safety measures, programs, collaborations, and equipment utilized in our schools: <https://www.cdaschools.org/domain/2976>.

We also strongly encourage you to report any school-related safety concerns and to alert an administrator or front office to any potential threat:

- If you hear, see, or are made aware of any potential or possible threat, or if you or someone else is in immediate danger, call 911.
- During a school day, you can call the school principal or assistant principal, or the district's Safety & Security Coordinator, Thomas Gandy. He can be reached by calling the District Office at (208) 664-8241 or via email at [thomas.gandy@cdaschools.org](mailto:thomas.gandy@cdaschools.org).

## Emergency Drills

Our school conducts monthly fire drills, per Idaho Code requirements. We also conduct two lockdown drills per year. We notify students ahead of time about our drills to minimize fear.

## Snow Days/Closures

Schools may be closed occasionally for weather, road conditions, or other safety issues.

When severe weather or road conditions are the issue, our district's Transportation Director will assess conditions very early in the morning and the Superintendent will make the decision by 5 am.

Once we decide to close school, internal and external communications will be sent as soon as possible. You can expect to receive an email message or text from the district if we are closed—but not if we are open—unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Messages are sent via text and email and are posted on the district's website and social media accounts. You can also call the District Closure Hotline at 208-667-0784. Most local television and radio stations will share the information. Look for "Coeur d'Alene School District #271".

## Bullying Prevention Initiative

At Dalton Elementary, we are committed to making sure our school stays emotionally and physically safe for each child to learn. Our Bullying Prevention Program draws from the "Steps to Respect" class lessons and focuses on the **3 R's**:

- **Recognize:** Know what bullying is, what it looks like, sounds like, and feels like. Bullying is different from teasing.
- **Refuse:** Refuse to participate in bullying in ANY way. Refuse to be a "bystander". Refuse to be a victim!
- **Report:** Reporting is different than tattling. Tattling is trying to get another person into trouble. Reporting means you have told the bully to stop or you will report it to an adult. If the bully doesn't stop, you have the right and responsibility to report it.

## School Resources

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### School Nurse

Dalton's school nurse is Victoria Kimball. You may contact Victoria at (208) 772-5364 or via email at [vkimball@cdaschools.org](mailto:vkimball@cdaschools.org).

Our school nurse provides:

- Quality, safe, patient-centered care using evidence-based practice, teamwork, collaboration, and informatics;
- Care coordination to make it possible for students with conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy, life-threatening allergies, and/or asthma to attend school each day;
- An increased access to healthcare and improvement of outcomes for students with unique health needs;
- Enforcement for illness guidelines;
- Education for health promotion and disease prevention;
- Tracking and education on the importance of immunizations; and
- Health screenings, including vision and scoliosis.

### Medications at School

To protect the health and safety of all students, if your child requires medication during the school day, please contact Nurse Victoria Kimball for assistance, instruction, and storage.

Elementary and middle school students are not allowed to possess prescription or nonprescription medications at school or on the property unless specifically authorized to do so.

For more information, see the District Handbook for Parents and Students, Policy 3510.

## Illness Guidelines

- Note: *Please see current guidelines for COVID on the District website.*
- Diarrhea: Students shall not attend school if they have had watery stools within a 24-hour period.
- Fever: Students shall be sent home or excluded from school if fever is over 100 degrees or when symptoms of illness or behavioral changes are present. Temperature should be taken without anti-fever/pain medication use, which will skew results. Child is able to return to school if his/her temperature is lower than 100 degrees, without fever-reducing medications, for 24 hours.
- Vomiting: Students shall be excluded from school if there are 2 or more episodes of vomiting within 24 hours.
- Pink Eye: Students with irritation *and* drainage from the eye shall be excluded from school until symptoms have been resolved, or until treatment has been started.
- Herpes (Cold Sores): Draining lesions must be covered completely with an impermeable bandage. Students shall be excluded from school if unable to cover draining lesions. Students may attend school if lesions are dry.
- Shingles (Herpes Zoster): Student may remain in school if rash is covered completely.
- Scabies: Student may attend school 8 hours after medical treatment has begun.
- Impetigo: A student diagnosed with Impetigo with draining lesions shall be excluded from school until a medical provider's release is obtained. Impetigo is considered no longer contagious after being on antibiotics for 24 hours.
- Ringworm: Students may attend school if lesions from ringworm are covered completely on all sides, and medication therapy has begun.
- Streptococcal: Students with any Strep infection shall be excluded from school until they have been on antibiotic therapy for 24 hours.
- Chickenpox: Students having symptoms of Chickenpox shall be excluded from school until all vesicles have crusted over and no drainage or fever is present.

Visit the Health Services and Nursing channel on the district website for additional information, local resources, form, and more: <https://www.cdaschools.org/domain/284>.

## School Counselor

Our Dalton School counselor is Tami Frantzich. You may contact her at (208) 772-5364 or via email at [tfrantzich@cdaschools.org](mailto:tfrantzich@cdaschools.org).

Students may see Mrs. Frantzich through a self-referral, a parent referral, a staff referral, or a referral from other community professionals. The range of counseling services available to students, staff, and families, includes the following:

- Conflict resolution (individual and group)
- Social emotional skill building
- Consultation
- Collaboration
- Referral

- Classroom lessons
- 504 case management

## Hope on the Homefront

Our district’s dedicated Hope on the Homefront team is ready to help students and families struggling with precarious housing or those in need of help with school supplies, shoes, and more. For more information about this program or for assistance, please call (208) 664-8241 or visit <https://www.cdaschools.org/Page/652>.

## School Meals

Monthly school menus are available at [www.cdaschools.org/menu](http://www.cdaschools.org/menu). Easy school lunch payments can be made online through e-Funds using the “online payments” link at the top of each webpage. (Note that payments by credit card will incur a small fee but payments by checking account—using a bank routing and checking account number—are free.)

Families can save over \$500 a year by applying for free and reduced meals. This process and status are confidential. The application can be submitted at any time and once accepted, you will be required to reapply each year. Go to <http://cdaschoolsnutrition.com/?page=lunchapps>.

# Parent Groups/Volunteering

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## 2023-24 Dalton Elementary School PTA

Our Dalton Elementary School PTA welcomes you and your child. We warmly invite all families to be involved with our PTA to any extent they are able to do so. The overall purpose of PTA is to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Dalton PTA coordinates school activities and provides funds for teachers to supplement our school’s current budget. We meet once a month to determine those needs and work together to find where our PTA dollars are best spent. The strength of our PTA is a result of the amazing parents at Dalton. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join!

Please find out how you can help make the year a memorable one for our children. Feel free to contact the Dalton PTA with any questions, concerns and/or ideas by emailing our PTA President at [president@daltonpta.org](mailto:president@daltonpta.org).

## Sign Up to be a Volunteer

School volunteers work in cooperation with staff to help meet the needs of our students. We support and encourage volunteers in our schools.

Whether you want to help out for a few hours weekly, monthly, or even annually in your child’s classroom, at a school function, or in a school program, you must first be approved as a volunteer through the District. This requirement includes WatchDOGS.

Volunteer applications must be submitted annually starting in SY2023-24. For more information about this process, visit <https://www.cdaschools.org/volunteer>.

# Dalton Tidbits

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## What is Road Crew?

Road Crew is a special chorus made up of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Typically, they meet one morning each week before school. They perform in the community and for special events here at Dalton several times a year. Look for Road Crew information at Open House and during the first weeks of school. Sign-ups begin in the fall.

### **Dalton Apparel**

Families and staff can purchase Dalton apparel through an online store that opens intermittently throughout each year. More information will be forthcoming in the fall. On Fridays, we encourage students to wear either their Dalton shirts or purple and green clothing to promote school spirit.

### **Assemblies**

Donations of \$10 are accepted to help defray the cost of assemblies. Our counselor, Tami Frantzich, is the coordinator. PTA may help with some funding of assemblies if we do not collect enough to fund all costs.

### **Classroom Parties**

Classroom parties are held for Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. The room parent is usually in charge of these celebrations, asking parents to contribute items. Dalton holds a Halloween Parade at the start of the school day where all students come dressed in costume and parade through or around the school (no scary/violent costumes or weapons are allowed since we have young children in our midst). Parents and siblings are welcome to attend. Please communicate with teachers if providing birthday treats. ***We encourage quick, easy-to-eat, non-messy, healthy snacks or items like pencils in lieu of sugary treats.*** It is also important to check ahead for allergies in the classroom.

### **Music Programs**

Each year, our music teacher produces several concerts throughout our six grade levels. Sometimes grade levels are combined. Rehearsals are held during regular classroom music time and sometimes after school with notification.

### **Kids Corps**

Kids Corps is based upon principles similar to Student Council. Students will participate in leadership and service-oriented activities throughout the school year. Students are selected based on good citizenship, strong work ethic, positive role modeling, and parent/teacher recommendations. They will be involved in activities such as food drives, community service, and mentoring, and they will act as ambassadors of Dalton. They participate in these activities during study breaks, recesses, and before and after school. Students are expected to attend bi-monthly meetings each month. The meetings will be after school from 3:30 to 4:30 at Dalton. Tami Frantzich is the coordinator.

### **Field Trips**

Dalton's field trips are usually specific to each grade level. The exception is 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, who go to Triple Play for their Christmas party, and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade end-of-the-year Silverwood field trip. There may be a requested donation for each student for these field trips. Teachers will communicate about them ahead of time during the school year.

### **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Parent/Teacher conferences are held in November and March. These are 20-minute conferences arranged by each teacher via an online sign up. During conference time, you and the teacher will discuss your child's progress in reading, social studies, science, math, written language, and social skills. The teacher will share documentation of student progress and examples of student work.

### **Student of the Month**

Every month, teachers nominate one student per grade level that exemplifies our Dalton Dragon character traits. School-wide recognition is made and certificates are created to commemorate their contribution of laudable



influence on our campus. In addition, and as a gesture of thanks, these selected students will join Mrs. Hiltenbrand, Mr. Staples, and Mrs. Frantzich at the table during a monthly recognition lunch for the Students of the Month.

### **Invention Convention (AKA: Invent Idaho)**

Invent Idaho is the premier student invention event in the Northwest. It has provided a forum for thousands of young inventors in grades one through eight since its inception in 1989. Invent Idaho celebrates student creativity and innovation while teaching the inventive thinking process in an interdisciplinary curriculum. Young inventors participate in progressive levels of competitions, including three regional events held across Idaho, culminating in an Invent Idaho State Finals event.

### **Spelling Bee**

Dalton Elementary participates each year in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Contestants from third through fifth grade advance toward district and regional competitions. Students in these classrooms will be given the opportunity to compete. One student from each grade level will advance.

### **Where do I get regular information?**

We try to keep communication frequent and timely at Dalton. There are several places to find information. Check out the Dalton newsletter (via email) or our website, <https://www.cdaschools.org/Domain/13> for frequent updates. We also post important reminders on our reader board. In addition, classroom teachers communicate through newsletters, classroom web pages, and teacher email. Check with your child's teacher for his/her communication schedule.

### **Student Drop off/Pick up**

Dalton has a large number of students whose parents drive them to and from school each day. To make the line move efficiently, we ask everyone to follow the same procedure. Drop off and pick up entrance is off of Davenport Street. Drop off is in front of the gym and pick up is between the two signs in front of the building. We ask you to pull forward as far as possible and never leave your car parked in the car line. You are welcome to use the Hanley Avenue entrance if you plan to park and walk your student to the front of the building. Please be sure to use the crosswalk. See video tips here: <http://bit.ly/2H97JrT>.

### **Student Birthdays**

At Dalton, each teacher has discretion in how he/she handles birthday acknowledgments inside the classroom. At the school level, we expect parents/families to communicate with a teacher ahead of time if they would like to send in a celebratory item. If the item is food, we prefer the snack to be simple, healthy, and easy to pass out and eat. Please do not send in a cake expecting a teacher to spend valuable learning time cutting it up and passing it out with forks, plates, and napkins. In addition, it is very messy and full of sugar! A better idea is a birthday pencil or sticker or a healthy snack (i.e., fruit). Parents need to manage invitations to parties outside of school unless they plan to invite an entire class. Otherwise, teachers spend valuable learning time consoling excluded kiddos.