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# **WASATCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Today's good students  
make tomorrow's good citizens.



**PARENT HANDBOOK**  
Colleen Densley, Principal

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Dear Wasatch Families,

This handbook has been prepared to help you understand the philosophy and policies of Wasatch Elementary School. You should take time to read it so you will be aware of the many opportunities your children will have for personal and academic growth.

Please read appropriate sections with your children. This will help them be prepared and happy in school. There is more information about Wasatch Elementary School on our homepage:

[www.wasatch.provo.edu](http://www.wasatch.provo.edu)

Wasatch is a success-oriented place and there will be many opportunities for your children to succeed. Talk about what happened at school, supervise completion of homework, and express confidence in their ability to be successful.

Warmly,  
Colleen Densley

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of Wasatch Elementary School is to provide a high quality education by:

- Ensuring a safe physical and emotional environment where children feel loved, confident, and successful,
- Equipping children with the basic tools of math, literacy, and reasoning,
- Fostering participation in the arts and sciences,
- And teaching the fundamental values of respect, responsibility, and service.

### **Philosophy**

We believe that:

- Every individual has worth and the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- All individuals deserve a safe physical and emotional environment.
- Every child has the potential to learn.
- High expectations are essential for personal development and optimal learning.
- Consistent parental involvement in the education process plays a major role in the degree of success a child experiences in school.
- The responsibility for obtaining a quality education is shared by student, teachers, parents, and community.

## Table of Contents

Mission Statement.....	1
Philosophy.....	1
History of Wasatch Elementary.....	4
General Information	
Admission to School.....	5
Immunizations.....	5
Student Insurance.....	5
Accidents.....	6
Medication.....	6
Lost and Found.....	6
Attendance.....	6
If Your Child is Ill or Will be Absent.....	6
If You Move Away.....	6
Emergencies and Disasters.....	6
School Hours and the Bus.....	7
Checking a Student In or Out of School.....	8
Family Vacations.....	8
Discipline at Wasatch.....	8
Safe School Policy.....	9
Student Information	
Leaving School Grounds.....	9
Staying After School.....	9
Play Dates.....	9
Homework.....	9
No Swearing or Inappropriate Language.....	9
School Rules.....	10
The Cardinal Sins.....	10
Cousins or Friends at School.....	10

Sports Equipment.....	10
Bicycles and Scooters.....	10
Curriculum .....	11
Church and State.....	12
Ethnic Diversity .....	14
Dress Standards .....	14
Parent Information	
Fees.....	15
Cafeteria.....	15
Good Manners.....	15
Birthday, Valentines, and other Treats at School.....	15
Money at School \$\$\$.....	16
Trading Cards.....	16
Community Advisory Council .....	16
Progress Reports. ....	16
High Stakes. ....	16
Canine Carrier (K-9) .....	17
Student Placement for 2007-08.....	17
Out-of-Area.....	17
Home School.....	18
Beyond the Classroom.....	18
Volunteers.....	20
PAWS (Patrons at Wasatch School) .....	20
The Halls of Wasatch.....	20
Compliances.....	22
School Spirit.....	24

## History of Wasatch Elementary

Wasatch Elementary School was named “Wasatch” on October 13, 1948. It is an Indian name meaning “mountain path.” The following year, on September 12, 1949, students began attending the new school. There were 239 students, one kindergarten room and four classrooms. Mr. George Miller was the first principal. The entire building, as you see it today, was dedicated on January 10, 1954. Dr. Ariel S. Ballif gave the dedicatory prayer. There were 695 students that year.

Many traditions have enriched the lives of those who attend Wasatch Elementary School. On January 10, 1958, Satch was born in Munich, Germany. That summer a Wasatch teacher, Mrs. Hotchkiss, vacationed in Germany and saw Satch. She purchased him and brought him to Wasatch to be our mascot. He still remains in our front hall and reminds us that we must be good citizens and always live the Golden Rule. Mr. Andy Baggs created the industrial shop classroom where students learned skills that would serve them throughout their lives. Many homes display a wood-burned family-name plaque on their front doors. Mr. Baggs also initiated a formal flag ceremony so students would learn the importance of loving and respecting our flag and country. Our Ladies and Gentlemen’s Corps, directed by Mrs. Bonnie Busco, extended this tradition. The fifth and sixth grade teachers, under the direction of Betsy McFarland, continue to help students gain a love and respect for our flag and our great country. Patriotism and citizenship have always been major focuses of the educational experience children have at Wasatch. We begin each day by singing *The Star Spangled Banner*, our national anthem, and reciting *The Pledge of Allegiance*. The braiding of the May Pole by sixth graders, along with other folk dances performed by the children on the front lawn each spring continues today, as do fabulous class programs of drama, singing, and dancing. Mrs. Maurine Brimhall wrote our beloved school song and from that song, we adopted the motto: *We’re the best school in the land!* Mrs. Faye Frazier introduced the Hershey Track and Field Day. Dr. Jerry Jaccard initiated the Kodaly music program and Concert Choir.

Wasatch Elementary School has been recognized with a number of awards: the *Gold Medal Award*, the *Excellence in Education Award*, the *Utah Centennial Schools Award*, and the *Award for Excellence from the Sutherland Institute*.

Nine Principals have served the students at Wasatch Elementary School. They are as follows:

Mr. George Miller	1949-1955
Dr. Ross Denham	1955-1965
Mr. Vern Brimley	1965-1967
Mr. Bill Geertsen	1967-1975
Dr. Grady Edenfield	1975-1982
Mr. Ned Allred	1982-1987
Dr. A. Samuel Roberts	1987-1990
Mrs. Kathryn Spencer	1990-2001
Mrs. Colleen Densley	2001- present

A school is great when the patrons who send their children there are involved in positive, supportive activities. Wasatch has always had magnificent families. The academic curriculum is richly blessed by many extra-curricular opportunities made possible by parents who are generous with their talents and means. Some of the current enrichment programs include: Jr. Great Books, Great Brain Projects, Reading Hall of Fame, American Citizenship Award – Honor Patch, Kodaly Music, Utah Heritage Garden, International Week, and Jr. Achievement.

On September 10, 1999 a group of parents whose children used to attend Wasatch presented the student body with a beautiful baby grand piano as a 50th birthday present. This gift will be enjoyed and used for years to come.

Throughout these many years, Wasatch has sustained the reputation of being one of the outstanding schools in the country. Our students consistently excel on state and national achievement tests. They come from homes where parents value scholarship and are actively involved in the educational goals of their children.

We trust that the meaningful traditions of years past will continue. However, instead of paper and pencils dominating the classroom, we are also learning via computers, e-mail, calculators, and the Internet. Only our imagination can predict what the future has in store. The next 50 years should be even better than the last!

### ***General Information***

#### **Admission to School**

Birth certificate, immunization record, Social Security Number, name and mailing address of previous school, proof of residency (electric bill or phone bill), and two names and phone numbers of people to call in emergencies are all required.

#### **Immunizations**

Utah law requires that school records include complete immunization records. Records must include documentation of the month, day, and year for each immunization and are required before admission to school: DPT – 5, Polio – 4, (the fifth DPT and fourth Polio need to be given after the child's fourth birthday), Hepatitis B – 3 shots (for kindergarten through sixth grade students), Hepatitis A – 2 (for kindergarten through sixth grade students), MMR – 2 (MMR must be given after the first birthday), and Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccinations (for kindergarten through fifth grade students). TB testing is required for students coming from a foreign country. This needs to be completed before attendance begins. Check with the office for more information.

#### **Student Insurance**

Accident insurance is available for you to purchase. Forms are available in the office. This insurance pays in addition to your family's insurance plan.

### **Accidents**

Whenever a serious accident or illness occurs at school, we do everything within our power to contact a parent. If this fails, we notify the friend or neighbor listed on your health sheet. In extreme emergencies or when we are unable to contact these people, we call the paramedics. It is critical that you let the school office know your current home, work, and cell numbers so we can reach you.

### **Medication**

Utah State law prohibits any employee in a public school to administer over-the-counter pain relievers (Tylenol/Advil) without parental permission. If your child needs pain medication a parent will be called before medication is given. Other over-the-counter medications and prescription medications **CANNOT** be given to a student without a signed statement from your physician. A complete written request form must be on file with the school secretary.

### **Lost and Found**

The Lost and Found is located in the hall outside the kindergarten classrooms. Unclaimed items are donated to charitable organizations in December and June.

### **Attendance**

According to the Provo School District Attendance Policy, “Elementary students risk the denial of grade promotion if their attendance is less than 90% (this allows approximately five absences per nine-week period). Tardies may result in loss of credit, reduced grades, or denial of grade promotion.” Please send your child to school on time. Tardiness disrupts classmates and interferes with learning.

**If your child is ill or will be absent for any reason**, please call 374-4911 to leave a message on the attendance line to excuse him/her before 8:45 a.m.

Do not keep a child home from school unless he/she is sick. On the other hand, when a student is sick, do keep him/her home! We are not prepared to care for sick children at school. Please schedule doctor and dentist appointments after school or on Saturday.

Following any absence, please send a note to the teacher explaining the reason. Be aware that truant students cannot make up missed assignments.

### **If You Move Away**

Please notify the office and the classroom teacher at least one week in advance of moving away from Wasatch Elementary. Be sure all library books, school texts, and materials are returned. Check on your child’s breakfast / lunch money balance – we might owe you a refund.

### **Emergencies and Disasters**

The Patrons at Wasatch School (PAWS) maintains this emergency plan.

Each classroom is equipped with basic First Aid supplies, a notebook with emergency guidelines, and the specific health concerns of their students. Parents are asked to supply survival provisions for 12-hours for their son/daughter each year.

K-96 and KSL are our emergency radio stations. They will indicate when schools are closed due to bad weather or emergencies.

In the event that a condition in the school building makes it unsafe for students to remain, necessitating sending children home before the close of the regular school day, we will follow the parent's instructions written on the individual student Annual School Emergency and Health Information Form. It is important that you complete the Annual Emergency and Student Health Information Sheet, submit it to the office, and keep it updated throughout the year so the school has current contact information and knows where you want your child to go if released early from school.

In the event of a major disaster affecting the entire community, if the building is still a safe refuge, students will be kept at school until released to family members or a designated adult upon that adult's signature.

Should immediate evacuation be required and it is not safe to send students home, they will be given refuge in the LDS chapel at 1038 North 1200 East, across the park east of the school.

## School Hours and the Bus

We love your children and want their day to get off to a good start! ***Every Moment Counts!*** Please plan on having your children arrive at school by 8:20 a.m. so they have time to go to their classrooms, say hi to their friends, put their things away, and be in their seat ready to learn by 8:30 a.m.

### School Hours

Kindergarten:	First-Sixth Grades
Morning kindergarten: 8:30-11:15	M T W Th: 8:30-3:15
Afternoon kindergarten: 12:00-3:15	Friday: 8:30-1:00

(No afternoon kindergarten on Fridays)

Kindergarten does not meet until after individual interviews have been completed. Check with your child's teacher to find out your scheduled appointment time and date at Back-to-School Night.

First-sixth grade students are dismissed at 1:00 p.m. every day for the first ten days of school to provide time for individual testing and SEP goal-setting conferences.

### **The School Bus**

The bus is usually filled to capacity with students who live in an area where students ride the bus; so there isn't usually room for friends to ride home on the bus. In a rare circumstance, students can get special permission to ride if they have a signed note from their parents and the principal approves it.

Please check with the office for a listing of specific times and bus stop locations.

### **Checking In**

If a student arrives after the 8:30 a.m. bell, he/she must sign in at the office.

### **Checking a Student out of School**

If it is necessary to take your child out of school during the day, please notify the teacher and sign him/her out on the ledger in the office. We take this precaution to protect the students.

### **Family Vacations**

Tell us if your family will be gone on vacation so the teacher can save important assignments for your child to do when he/she returns. No advanced assignments will be prepared. We have learned that it is difficult for students to complete them while on vacation and it places a hardship on the teacher.

## **Discipline at Wasatch**

The discipline philosophy at Wasatch Elementary is based on:

- Respect and trust
- A positive climate
- A simple structure of rules
- Logical and realistic consequences

Challenging and exciting work is the best motivator for students. Therefore, teachers have the primary responsibility for enhancing student learning and maintaining an effective learning climate. Our primary objective is to help students take advantage of their educational opportunities. Students need to demonstrate responsibility for their decisions and accept the consequences of their choices. We believe that the atmosphere at Wasatch Elementary should be characterized by a respect for adults and those in authority and a reciprocal respect for the dignity and individuality of each child. These values are stated in our school standards:

1. **Respect** the rights of others
2. Be **Responsible** for your own behavior
3. Perform small acts of **Service** for those around you daily.

Success in a child's development comes through a partnership between the school, students, parents, and the community. Parents are involved in the entire school program, including discipline and reinforcement measures that recognize or correct their child.

### **Safe School Policy**

Please refer to your Provo School District *Policies and Procedures on Attendance, Dress and Grooming, Orderly Conduct, Safe Schools, and Substance Abuse* booklet.

Behaviors that deprive other students or teachers of an orderly and safe learning environment are not acceptable and specific consequences will be enforced.

## **Student Information**

### **Leaving School Grounds**

For your safety, unless you are going home for lunch, you must stay within the boundaries of Wasatch Elementary during school hours. Because of our proximity to a park, a busy street, a convenience store, and the university, there are strangers in our immediate vicinity whose actions are not predictable. Therefore, you may not go to the corner stores to purchase lunch or go to the park.

If your parent plans to pick you up after school, please designate a family meeting place.

### **Staying After School**

If you are staying after school longer than 10 minutes, please let your parents know. Tell them in the morning before you leave home or telephone them after school. Every classroom has a phone that is available for this purpose.

### **Play Dates**

Please have your children make arrangements for play dates (going to a friend's home) before they come to school. We don't have enough phone lines going out from Wasatch to handle all of these types of requests from students.

### **Homework**

A reasonable amount of homework that is modeled in the classroom will be assigned. It will be designed to reinforce what students were taught in the classroom. Students are accountable for completing and returning homework promptly. Have a parent, a brother or a sister help with difficult assignments, but don't let them do it. Let students do as much as they can alone. Homework is intended to help students stretch, grow, and be responsible.

### **No Swearing**

Your choice of words represents your character. We want to help you learn to express anger or frustration without swearing. Vulgar expressions of any kind are never to be used at Wasatch.

## **School Rules**

**Respect** – how you treat other people and property.

**Responsibility** – how you manage yourself and your behavior.

**Service** – contributions you make that enrich the lives of others.

### **The Cardinal Sins**

Racist comments, fighting, vulgarity, vandalism, bullying, lying, cheating, and stealing are not acceptable conduct for Wasatch students. Such behavior will result in immediate consequences and will be reported directly to parents.

### **Cousins or Friends at School (Who are not registered to attend Wasatch)**

Please do not bring cousins or friends to school with you. This is distracting to your classmates and teacher. Make plans to do things with them after school.

### **Sports Equipment**

You may bring your own sports equipment to play with at school. However, the school cannot be responsible for loss or damage. So take good care of whatever you bring and be sure your name is on it.

Do not bring skateboards, pocketknives, matches, firecrackers, handheld video games, walkman radios, tapes/CDs, or iPods, to school. If a cell phone is brought to school, it is to be turned on vibrate or off and remain in the student's backpack during the school day. Roller blades, bikes, scooters, etc. may not be used on the playground from 7:50 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Rollerblades must be removed outside and never worn in the building.

### **Bicycles and scooters are welcome at school, but do not ride them on the playground from 7:50 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

- Please get off your bike or scooter as soon as you arrive on the school grounds and walk it to the rack nearest your classroom.
- Lock your bicycle or scooter to the rack.
- Always be courteous and give the right-of-way to pedestrians.
- Always wear a helmet.

There isn't enough room to store these items in classrooms. If students do not adhere to these rules, their equipment will be taken to the office. Parents can come to the school to retrieve their child's equipment. These rules have been designed for the safety of all children.

### **Playground Rules:**

- Use equipment appropriately – as it was intended.
- No pushing or jumping from the big rock.
- Don't slide on ice or throw snowballs.
- Kiwanis Park can be used with direct teacher supervision only.
- No locked games.

## Curriculum

Wasatch Elementary promotes a well-rounded curriculum that provides each student the opportunity to acquire personal knowledge and wisdom. Teachers and students interact in a classroom climate where relationships are valued and where students are encouraged to continually stretch towards their potential. We adhere to the Standards and Benchmarks of Provo School District and the Utah State Core curriculum. A copy of the Standards Report for your child's grade level is available online: <http://www.provo.edu/dep/curriculum/>

**Math:** All children need to understand the “what” of mathematics in order to be successful at computation, problem solving, and higher-order thinking skills. We strive to provide a balanced math program with hands-on discovery and direct instruction. Advanced math classes are offered for students who need a challenge beyond their grade level curriculum for students in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades.

**Language Arts:** A balanced literacy approach using the CELL/ExLL framework helps teachers provide instruction appropriate for each of his/her students. The Six Traits writing rubric is used to help students assess and improve their writing. Speaking, listening, thinking, reading, writing, and dramatic presentations provide opportunities for growth and development.

**Science:** Hands-on experiments, demonstrations, field trips, and university professors provide instruction.

**Art:** Art history, art appreciation, art criticism, and art production are all part of our disciplined based art program. The year culminates with a Spring Art Show held the first or second Tuesday in May.

**Music:** Our certified music teacher uses the Kodaly method. Music appreciation, theory, instruments, notation, sight-reading, listening, singing, and performing all provide rich educational opportunities.

**Social Studies:** Patriotism, history, sociology, economics, geography, politics, and community involvement help students to develop an understanding of their diverse world and become contributing citizens.

**Technology:** Students are learning skills so they will be able to use technology as a tool for learning and communicating. Keyboarding, word processing, email, research via the Internet, multimedia, and video production are taught in our two computer labs, mini classroom labs in the primary grades, and two mobile labs.

**P.E. and Health:** Supervised activities strengthen muscles, develop agility, and increase endurance. The curriculum also includes lessons on developing a healthy life style. The health curriculum in kindergarten-third grades includes good health practices, respect for life, personal

safety, and physical fitness. Fourth-sixth grades discuss safety, first aid, handling negative peer pressure, disease prevention, and the immune system.

Since parents are the primary teachers of their children, we strongly encourage you to discuss these important topics with them. You are welcome to attend class when these lessons are taught. Let your child's teacher know you are interested.

Sex education is taught best in the home along with responsible moral values. Fifth and sixth boys and girls participate in an annual maturation presentation for students and parents. Boys and girls meet separately with their parents for a discussion on emotional, social, mental, and physical changes that occur during puberty. Personal hygiene and good manners are also taught.

The radKIDS Personal Empowerment Safety Education Program emphasizes essential decision-making skills as well as physical resistance options to escape violence. Certified parent volunteers, with the support of our PE instructors, teach radKIDS during regular PE classes to students in first – sixth grades.

**Character Development** --- The following are some of the things we do at Wasatch to instill good character traits:

- Class meetings
- Appropriate modeling by teachers
- Consistent discipline policy
- American Citizenship Award – Wasatch Honor Patch
- Service projects
- Positive recognition for respectful behavior
- Ladies' and Gentlemen's Corps
- Principal's Honor Roll
- Slogan painted above the stage: Today's good students make tomorrow's good citizens.
- Golden Paw Award

Before you act, ask yourself three questions:

1. Will this help or hurt me?
2. Will this help or hurt others?
3. Is this the right and responsible thing to do?

### **Church and State**

We function within the legal guidelines of the U.S. Constitution. The following statements may help clarify this issue:

“The Constitution permits much private religious activity in and about the public schools. Unfortunately, this aspect of constitutional law is not as well known as it should be. Some say that the Supreme Court has declared the public schools “religion-free zones” or that

the law is so murky that school officials cannot know what is legally permissible. The former claim is simply wrong. And as to the latter, while there are some difficult issues, much has been settled.

“It might well be said that education is not complete without a study of comparative religion or the history of religion and its relationship to the advancement of civilization.

“It is both permissible and desirable to teach objectively about the role of religion in the history of Utah, the United States, and other countries.

“Public schools must remain neutral with respect to religion. Schools may not endorse or disapprove of any religion, either explicitly or implicitly.

“Taking official notice of a religious holiday is not an unconstitutional endorsement of religion, so long as it is done without trying to indoctrinate students with a religious viewpoint.

“Religious symbols are permissible if used to show the cultural and religious heritage of the holiday and are temporary in nature.

“Christmas and other holiday plays and assemblies are allowable if the material is educational and not represented in a devotional atmosphere. Schools should excuse students who do not wish to participate in holiday events.

“Public schools have a legitimate secular interest in facilitating the celebration of the cultural aspects of religious holidays.

“At school students enjoy the right to read their Bibles or other scriptures, say grace before meals, pray before tests, and discuss their religious view with other willing student listeners. Students may express their religious beliefs in the form of reports, homework, and artwork.”

The above quotes were taken from *Religion in the Public Schools: A Joint Statement of Current Law*. Drafted by American Jewish Congress, Chair, American Civil Liberties Union, American Muslim Council, Anti-Defamation League, Baptist Joint Committee, Christian Legal Society, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist, National Association of Evangelicals, National Council of Churches, and People for the American Way. You may order a free copy of this document by writing to:

Religion in the Public Schools  
15 East 84<sup>th</sup> Street  
Suite 501  
New York, New York 10028

Another pamphlet you will find helpful is *A Parent's Guide to Religion in the Public Schools*. (Published by The National PTA and The First Amendment Center.) Order a

free copy online at [www.freedomforum.org](http://www.freedomforum.org). The Freedom Forum is a nonpartisan, international foundation dedicated to free press, free speech, and free spirit for all people. Their phone number is: 1-800-830-3733.

It is part of our academic goal to educate students about America's diverse religious heritage and the role of religion in the social, cultural, and historical development of civilization. If you have questions, please know you are welcome to come to my office or call me. I am always happy to visit with you and address your concerns or suggestions.

Densley

- Mrs.

### **Ethnic Diversity**

There are students from many different countries who attend Wasatch. We have a wide variety of cultures and religions. We want to help our students develop a sense of fellowship with each other. We invite any interested Wasatch family to come and teach us about your religion and culture. Customs and culture from many nations are especially championed during our annual International Week.

### **Provo School District Dress and Grooming Code**

Students in the Provo City School District are expected to keep themselves well-groomed and neatly dressed while at school or at school functions. Clothing or grooming which is conspicuous or extreme, or which may draw undue attention, distract, or tend to interfere with the educational atmosphere at school/school functions will not be allowed.

Students violating the dress code will be asked to remove/fix the offending items or return home, with parent notification, to change their attire.

### **We maintain a traditional dress code at Wasatch**

1. You should arrive at school dressed for the weather and activities of the day so you can be safe, comfortable, and prepared for full participation outside.
2. Boys, girls, and adults are not to wear hats or head covers of any kind in the building. If you choose to wear a hat to school, you must keep it in your backpack or the closet until you go home.
3. Knee shorts are okay as long as they are hemmed and not frayed. If you wear short shorts or mini-skirts, you will be sent home to change.
4. Flip-flops or similar types of sandals are not safe footwear for physical education activities. If you choose to wear these to school, please bring a comfortable pair of athletic shoes for PE activities. Shoes with wheels are not appropriate school attire; please do not wear them to school.
5. T-shirts are acceptable, but do not wear immodest, large armhole tank tops or shirts with spaghetti straps.
6. Please do not wear shirts that have vulgar or suggestive logos or words. Do not wear any clothing which is ragged, immodest, or deliberately distracting in appearance.

7. Gang-style attire is unacceptable at Wasatch. This includes low-rider pants, bandannas, extreme hairstyles, gang logos, etc.

## **Parent Information**

### **Fees**

There are no required fees at Wasatch Elementary. All textbooks, equipment, and supplies are provided for every student. School funds are limited to the very basics. Students are welcome, but not required, to bring supplementary supplies of their choice. A suggested supply list for each class is available in the office and online at the Wasatch web site. Click on *Classrooms*, grade level, and then click your child's teacher.

Occasionally teachers may ask you for donations to enhance specific class activities. These contributions are voluntary and we appreciate your generous support. However, no child will be denied, nor deprived of participation in any class activity.

### **Cafeteria**

Students may go home for lunch, bring a sack lunch, or purchase lunch in the cafeteria for \$1.75. If students choose to go home for lunch they **must** sign out in the office and sign in upon return to school. This is to help us make sure your child is accounted for and safe! Breakfast is served starting at 7:50 a.m. and costs \$1.25. All children should be finished eating by 8:20 a.m. to get to class on time. Lunch is served from 11:10 a.m. – 11:50 p.m.

Students may pre-pay in the office any day before school. Make checks payable to Wasatch Elementary. All payments for breakfast and/or lunch, whether daily or long-term, should be made in office before the school day begins. Your child will be given three days notice when his/her lunch account will be at zero. Please do not forget to send money with your child. Lunches cannot be charged.

Free and reduced lunch applications are mailed to all families in August (applications need to be submitted each year). If you want to apply, complete the form and submit it to the office promptly. You will be responsible for paying for your child's lunch/breakfast or send meals from home until it is approved. You will be notified when it is approved.

### **Good Manners**

Occasionally a student forgets good behavior eating manners and destroys the cafeteria atmosphere for everyone else. Two firm warnings will be given. The third offense will result in the loss of cafeteria privileges for one week.

### **Birthday, Valentines, and Other Treats at School**

“In accordance with the Utah County Food Code, homemade or home packaged foods may not be served or sold at school. All food served or sold at school outside the food service program must be commercially prepared and packaged.” Provo School District Wellness Policy, Board Approved 6-6-06

### **Money at School \$\$\$**

When sending money to school, please put the check or cash in a sealed envelope with your child's name on the front and the purpose for the money. We discourage students bringing pocket money to school. Teachers cannot be responsible for it and a desk, coat pocket, or backpack is not secure.

**Trading Cards** – Pokémon and other trading cards games cannot be played at school. Cards will be confiscated, a parent can pick them up in the office. We appreciate your support in not bringing trading cards to school.

### **Community Advisory Council**

Wasatch has a Community Advisory Council with thirteen members. There are seven patrons and six faculty and/or staff who serve. They design the School Improvement and Trust LANDS plans. They are elected for staggered two-year terms.

### **Progress Reports**

Teachers send regular progress reports home to parents. Parents may also access their child's grades and attendance via the Internet. Log onto the Provo School District's home page at:

[www.provo.edu](http://www.provo.edu)

Quick Links is on the right side of the page – click on the *PowerSchool* link. You will be prompted to input your *Username*, which is your child's student ID number, and a password, which is your child's birth date. PowerSchool will give you access to information about your child's attendance, and academic progress.

If you have trouble getting the information on the Internet, or you do not have access to a computer, don't hesitate to call the school office for help. We want to provide you timely and accurate information.

You can always call your child's teacher when you have concerns or need information about your child's performance. If you call while they are teaching, you can leave a message and they will return your call. They are anxious to work with you to help your child succeed.

Three regularly scheduled SEP conferences are held during the year. Parents may call 374-4910 and request a conference or phone visit at anytime. Teachers will schedule visits before or after school hours so instruction time is not interrupted.

### **High Stakes**

The Provo School District High Stakes Policy was implemented in all schools in Provo School District beginning with the 2003-2004 school year. As stated in the policy, "The purpose of this high stakes policy is to provide students with appropriate educational placement and services for their continued success." Student placement (promotion) will be determined by proficiency in reading, writing, and math according to the standards at

each grade level. Students who need additional targeted instruction to perform on grade level can receive extra help during the regular school day and/or focused instruction in reading and/or math in our After School and Summer School programs. You can download a copy of the district High Stakes Policy by going to [www.provo.edu](http://www.provo.edu) and clicking on District Policies found in Quick Links on the right side of the page. This will take you to the District Policies and Procedures page. Then you click on *High Stakes Policy*. Please discuss any questions or concerns with your child's teacher or the principal. End of year tests begin in April and go through the first of May.

### **Canine Carriers (K-9)**

The youngest child at Wasatch in each family is designated as the *K-9 Carrier*. This child will receive all bulletins, newsletters, and other publications relevant to parents. Please teach your child to get these bulletins home to you promptly so you don't miss important information. It is a good idea to check your child's backpack everyday.

### **Student Placement for 2009-2010**

Wasatch Elementary teachers and the principal collaborate in determining student placement for the following year. To ensure optimal learning, effort is made to stabilize each new class with heterogeneous strengths and abilities. We want the children to be mixed a little differently each year so they broaden their friendships.

If parents want to provide information regarding special needs or concerns, a parent input form is available in the office. These completed forms, must be received in the office by May 1 and will be considered as new classes are organized during the first week of May.

<p>In bringing up children, spend on them half as much money and twice as much time. - Dr. Laurence J. Peter</p>
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### **Out-of-Area**

Wasatch Elementary accepts families who live outside the school boundaries when there is available space in the requested grade level. Out-of-Area Petitions are initiated through the Provo District Office, 280 West 940 North, Provo.

As an out-of-area family, it is important that you are aware of the compliance requirements for continued attendance:

- Maintain 90% attendance.
- No more than five tardies per term.
- Class assignments completed and turned in on time.
- Parent support and follow-through with school assignments.
- No discipline problems.

- Transportation is to be provided by parents. Students should not be dropped off earlier than 8:20, unless they are eating breakfast, and must be picked up within 15 minutes after school is dismissed.

### **Home School**

Utah State Law section 53A-11-102(b)(ii) states that parents who intend to educate a child at home must file an application with the school district. In Provo School District, that application will be reviewed by the Board of Education at their meeting on the second Tuesday of each month. Please submit your request at least one week prior to that meeting.

### **Beyond the Classroom**

Wasatch Elementary is developing a Gifted Program. We recognize that students who are truly gifted think and function differently than other children. They deserve opportunities to associate with other gifted students in creative, thought-provoking projects.

The following extra-curricular opportunities are available for all interested students. Some are school directed and some are parent directed. Please encourage your children to take the opportunity to participate in many of these events.

**American Citizenship Award – Honor Patch:** This is the highest award given at Wasatch Elementary. Students in third-sixth grades who fulfill the requirements of citizenship, patriotism, academic excellence, extra-curricular activity, and service can earn their Honor Patch. Applications are available in the office.

**Principal’s Honor Roll:** One student from each classroom in second – sixth grades is honored each month for academic growth and achievement. These students have lunch with Mrs. Densley.

**Wasatch Reading Treasure Hunt:** Students in third-sixth grades can be in the Wasatch Reading Hall of Fame by reading a variety of 25 books. Their name and picture are posted in the library for recognition. Applications are available in the library.

**Choir:** A madrigal-type concert choir, directed by Dr. Jerry Jaccard and Stefanie Hatch, where Kodály music skills are essential in learning the repertoire that is offered to fourth-sixth grade students. The choir learns advanced vocal skills and performs classical and folk music. No audition is required. They meet in the gym at 7:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Teresa Dickson directs our third grade after school choir. All third grade children are invited to participate in this outstanding experience.

**Spelling Bee:** A school wide bee is held for classroom champions in fourth-sixth grades. The third grades hold their own classroom bee. Get a list of the words from your teacher.

**Great Brains:** Students can choose a topic of interest, do extensive research, and then prepare and give an oral report to their class. Applications are in the library.

**Geography Bee:** Students in fourth-sixth grades can participate in a Geography Bee. This gives students an opportunity to show what they know about their world.

**Science Fair:** Students in third – sixth grades can participate by preparing a display that describes a scientific project they did. A hypothesis, research conducted, and concluding facts must be presented.

**Art Show:** Every Wasatch student displays art at this cultural highlight of the year. It is an enriching family event held the first or second Tuesday night in May. Students who would like to perform musical talents are welcome to do so on this evening

**Ladies' and Gentlemen's Corps:** This service organization is open to all sixth grade students from the beginning of the year and fifth grade students second semester. These students display good citizenship and manners as they serve in leadership assignments throughout the school.

**Band:** Sixth grade students can participate in the band that is intended to introduce them to brass and woodwind instruments in preparation for middle school.

**Strings Program:** Upper grade students can participate in the beginning or advanced string instrument class. Students provide their own instruments. The class meets twice a week. A letter will be sent home at the beginning of the year with more details. A donation is appreciated for these lessons.

**Cello Lessons:** BYU Music students offer cello lessons under the direction of Monica Call. There is a fee for these lessons; please call 374-0331 for more details.

**Talent Show:** Students can audition to be in the annual talent show held in February. PAWS will send a note with the details home with your child a couple of weeks ahead of time.

**Field Day:** Kindergarten-second grades spend a fun filled morning in relay races, obstacle courses, tug-of-wars, and feats of skill. It is held at Kiwanis Park in May. Parent volunteers direct all of the activities.

**Hershey Track and Field Day:** Students in third-sixth grades participate in their choice of three events in this meet. It is held at Timpview High School's track in May. Students who break a previous school record have their name and picture mounted on the Hershey Record Board located in the main hall outside the gym. Each year we are hopeful that at least one new record will be set. One Wasatch student, Liz Stringham, qualified for the national meet in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

## Volunteers

Volunteers are an essential factor in the success of Wasatch Elementary. Many of our outstanding programs are initiated and directed by parents. You can volunteer your services in three categories:

1. Directly with the classroom teacher:
  - a. Assist with learning centers.
  - b. Prepare teaching materials and displays.
  - c. Be a chaperon on a field trip.
  - d. Other duties requested and scheduled by the teacher.
  - e. Mentor a gifted student on a project in a discipline of your interest, such as biology, electronics, writing, etc.

Sign up with your child's teacher at Back-to-School Night.

2. Through PAWS (Patrons at Wasatch School)
  - a. Be a Room Representative
  - b. Serve on the PAWS Board as a Commissioner.
  - c. Assist with PAWS directed activities.
  - d. Participate in a one-time event (Fall Festival, Field Day, Hershey Track Meet, etc.).
  - e. Be a teacher for Junior Achievement. (Present six 30-45 minute lessons in the classroom where your child is. All materials and lesson plans are provided.)
  - f. Assist with emergency preparedness.

Contact the PAWS President, Barbara Acheson, to offer your services.

**All volunteers and visitors to the school should  
check in at the office when they arrive.**

### **Patrons at Wasatch School (PAWS)**

All parents and educators belong to PAWS, an organization that enriches the educational opportunities for Wasatch Elementary students and provides support to everyone at Wasatch. PAWS publishes a newsletter that is distributed the first of each month. It contains a calendar of school events and PAWS activities. All patrons are welcome to attend the PAWS meetings held the first Friday each month. The PAWS theme this year is: *Wasatch Island – Find the Treasure Within*.

### **The Halls of Wasatch**

Enjoy a stimulating experience by strolling through our halls. Displays and student achievements enhance the learning environment of our school.

This guide begins at the south entrance of main hall.

1. Glance in the **restrooms** as you pass by. Our custodian decorates them appropriately to indicate the girls' and the boys' restrooms. The décor also helps students behave better when using the restrooms.

2. **Flags** from countries where Wasatch students were born are displayed. Student names are under each flag. Many of these international students are from BYU families living in Provo while a parent obtains a graduate degree.
3. **Hershey Track and Field Record Board** contains our school champions. Their picture remains up until someone beats their record. We hold a school Hershey Track Meet annually.
4. **March of Dimes Trophies:** Wasatch has taken first place for seven years as the school raising the most money and having the most participants in the March of Dimes Walk America.
5. **Art Prints** on the walls throughout the building are the **Focus Artists** each grade level studies during the year. The prints are placed outside the grade level that studies that artist.
6. The **Pacific Rim World Map** gives a more realistic perspective of the continents in relation to the U.S. It also allows students to show classmates the location of their native country.
7. The **International Doll Exhibit** is a prized collection from a former Wasatch sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Jessie Arrowsmith. Some of our international students have added dolls from their countries to this display.
8. **Student artwork** displayed in the main foyer is just an example of the fine work our students produce.
9. There are **photos of past and present** principals in the main entry, secretaries in the office, and librarians in the library. It is fun to see all of the wonderful people who have worked in our school.
10. Each **hall/area** has a specific name:
  - Main hall is on *Friendship Road*.
  - The sixth grade hall is on *High Brow Boulevard*.
  - The fifth grade hall is on *Academic Avenue*.
  - The computer lab and library are on *Genius Street*.
  - The first grade hall is on *Discovery Drive*.
  - Our main entrance is on *Super Kid Court*.
  - The kindergarten classrooms are on *Kindergarten Lane*.
11. **Stained Glass windows** in the main office and library were designed and made by the sixth grade students as their gift to the school.
12. The **PAWS bulletin board** contains current information for parents.

13. The **Solar System** display begins with the fireball on the wall above the double doors and represents the sun. If you look up you will see the planets suspended from the ceiling, showing their relative size and distance from the sun.
14. The **Guided Reading Library** is where our extensive Guided Reading Library is housed. These books are checked out by teachers for classroom use.
15. The **ELL** (English Language Learners) classroom (at the end of the north hall) is the favorite room for our many international students. They have incredible success learning English under the direction of our competent ELL teacher.
16. Our **Library** is divided into fiction, non-fiction, research, and study areas. We have a 30-station Internet lab where students learn to access information and receive instruction in math, writing, keyboarding, and word processing. Sixth graders average a typing speed of 30-35 wpm. All students have instruction on computers. They also have the opportunity of creating multimedia presentations and reports.
17. Our **Mobil AirPort Computer Labs** bring laptop computers to the classroom where technology and curriculum are integrated.
18. Children love to have their **work displayed in the hall** by their classroom.
19. We invite you to walk through our **Utah Heritage Garden** (upper lawn, southwest corner) where you can admire flowers, bushes, and trees that are native to Utah. Wasatch students have planted seeds, nurtured them in their classrooms, and then transplanted the young plants to the garden. Extra seedlings have been planted by our students in Rock Canyon and along the trail to Timpanogos Cave. This is the first garden of its kind in the State of Utah. We hope it will be a model for others to follow.

## **Compliances**

**Special Accommodations** – In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations, including auxiliary communicative aids and services, during school sponsored meeting, activities or parent conferences should notify Colleen Densley, Principal, at 374-4910 at least three working days prior to the meeting.

**How to contact Wasatch Elementary by phone if you are hearing impaired** – If you are deaf or have a hearing impairment and wish to communicate with someone at Wasatch Elementary, you may use the Utah Relay System by calling 1-800-346-4128.

Give the operator the phone number of Wasatch 801-374-4910. There is no charge for this service. Please indicate your name and that you wish to get a message to Wasatch Elementary. Also, give the name of the person with whom you wish to communicate.

**Language Interpreters** – We will provide a translator for any school sponsored meeting, activity, or parent conference for parents who do not speak English. If you need an interpreter, please notify Mrs. Ware, ELL Teacher, at 374-4910 at least three working days prior to the meeting or activity.

**Safe School and Orderly Conduct Policy** – Behaviors that deprive other students or faculty members of an orderly and safe learning environment are prohibited at Wasatch Elementary. This applies to actions of students during school hours, before and after school while on school property, while traveling in vehicles authorized by the school or district, at all school or district related events, and when the actions affect the mission of the operation of Wasatch Elementary.

Every family of Wasatch Elementary receives a copy of the Provo School District ***Policies and Procedures on Attendance, Dress and Grooming, Orderly Conduct, Safe Schools, and Substance Abuse*** booklet each year. This booklet describes precise consequences for different levels of inappropriate behavior. Please read it and help your child understand the seriousness of making inappropriate choices.

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### **Children Learn What They Live**

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.

If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.

If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.

If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,

he learns to find love in the world.

-Unknown-