

Wasatch Elementary School

We really think it's grand!!

Parent and Student Handbook



Jess Hansen, Principal
Chris Fuhriman, Vice Principal

Wasatch Elementary School

1080 North 900 East

Provo, Utah 84604

Phone: 801-374-4910

Attendance line: 801-374-4911

Fax: 801-374-4912

Email: wasatchinfo@provo.edu

Website: www.wasatch.provo.edu

If your child is not feeling well or will be missing school for any reason please call the
absentee line
801-374-4911

Report absences before 9:00 a.m.

Wasatch Elementary has an Online Calendar that can be accessed from the Wasatch
Elementary homepage

Faculty and staff email addresses can be accessed on the school homepage

www.wasatch.provo.edu

Click on *Classrooms* and then click on the teachers's name you would like to contact.

Updated July 2019

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

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.

Make it a great year!

Jess Hansen

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, service, and learning.

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.

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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 building was dedicated on January 10, 1954. Dr. Ariel S. Ballif gave the dedicatory prayer. There were 695 students that year. As Wasatch has grown we have expanded to two buildings and are housed partially in the neighboring building (formerly Oakridge School) that we call “Wasatch Too.”

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. 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, was started by Mrs. Bonnie Busco and extended this tradition. 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 Hershey Track and Field Day; we have continued with our own Wasatch field and track day. Dr. Jerry Jaccard initiated the Kodaly music program and Concert Choir, which provides an outstanding musical education for our students.

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*, the *Award for Excellence from the Sutherland Institute*, and the *National Blue Ribbon Award*.

Ten 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- 2014
Mrs. Rene Cunningham	2014-2019
Mrs. Jess Hansen	Current

A school is great when the patrons who send their children there are involved in positive, supportive activities. Wasatch has always had outstanding families. The academic curriculum is richly blessed by many extra-curricular opportunities made possible by parents who are generous with their time, talents and means. Some of the current enrichment programs include: Band, Orchestra, Writer's Olympics, Talent Show, Storytelling Festival, Science Fair, Track & Field, Art Expressions, Robotics, S.T.A.R. Reading, Caldecott Star Reader, Satch Patch, Kodaly Music, Utah Heritage Garden, International Week, Jr. Achievement, Drama Classes/Club, an After School Program and Art Classes.

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.

Our Chinese Immersion program began in August 2009 with first grade students. Our students spend half of their day in full Chinese Immersion and the other half of their day in their English classroom. Our students are working to become fluent in Mandarin Chinese. We are amazed with the progress our students are making.

Throughout these many years, Wasatch has sustained the reputation of being one of the most 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 moving into the digital age with computers, iPads, Chromebooks and interactive whiteboards. Students have the opportunity to be immersed in learning another language. Only our imagination can predict what the future has in store. The future years should be even better than the last!

Admission to School

General Information

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, Hepatitis A – 2, MMR – 2 (MMR must be given after the first birthday), and 2 Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccinations. 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.

School Information

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

State law prohibits any employee in a public school to administer over-the-counter pain relievers (Tylenol) without parental permission. Other over-the-counter medications and prescription medications **CANNOT** be given to a student without a signed statement from your physician. All student prescriptions and medications must be kept and dispensed in the office. If your child has an inhaler to control asthma or an Epi-pen in case of severe allergic reactions, there are some exceptions, but the office will still need paperwork from your physician.

Lost and Found

The Lost and Found is located by the elevator in Wasatch Too. 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 term). Parents will need a valid excuse to miss school – Doctors Note, Family Death, Approved School Activity, Military Block Leave.

5 unexcused absences = Notice of Attendance Letter

8 unexcused absences = Citation Letter/Truancy School 10 Unexcused absences = Citation Letter #2 PAC

Tardies

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.

3 Unexcused Tardies = an absence.

If your child is ill or will be absent for any reason, please call 801-374-4911 and leave a message on the attendance line to excuse him/her before 9:00 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 try to schedule doctor and dentist appointments after school or on Saturday.

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.

District Announces Procedures for “Snow Day – Late Start”

What is a “Snow Day Late Start?”

On rare occasions Provo City receives an exceptionally heavy nighttime snow. If the storm prevents school bus service, parents driving their students to school, and employees safely getting to school on time, the Superintendent declares a “Snow Day Late Start.” If a “Snow Day Late Start” is announced, all school start times and bus times will be moved forward exactly two hours.

How will I know that a “Snow Day Late Start” has been declared?

The decision to begin school two hours late due to a major snowstorm will be reported to the local television media and the Provo School District will post a web announcement at www.provo.edu no later than 6:00am.

What action do I take if a “Snow Day Late Start” is declared?

If a “Snow Day Late Start” is announced, all school start times and bus times will be moved forward exactly two hours. Thus, school will begin at 10:40 a.m. If your bus pickup is at 8:00 a.m., your bus will arrive at the pickup location at 10:00 a.m. School dismissal times will remain at 3:20 p.m. Monday through Thursday and at 1:30 p.m. on Fridays. Therefore, the school day is shortened by two hours.

How common are “Snow Day Late Start” alerts?

Winter snow in Utah is common, and parents expect schools to be open even in inclement weather. Therefore, “Snow Day Late Start” alerts are rare and occur only if a major storm occurs at night and continues until morning. Storms that occur in the early evening and end by midnight will not trigger a “Snow Day Late Start” alert since road crews and custodians will have sufficient time to clear roads, sidewalks and lots.

Will a late start affect dismissal times?

No, School will dismiss at the regular times.

Again, “Snow Day Late Start” alerts are for major storms that deliver heavy snow (at least 10 inches) at a critical time after midnight. Moderate snowfall during the night will not trigger an alert and school will begin on the normal schedule. As always, parents can choose to keep their children home if they feel local conditions are not safe for travel. If that is the case, please call the attendance hotline 374-4911 and leave a message letting the school know if your student will be late or absent due to the snow.

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. Each year, please be sure to check your child's Student Profile sheet at your SEP Conference; the office will update the Emergency and Student Health Information Sheet from that information.

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 as listed on your child's Emergency and Health Information form.

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 8:30 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 8:40 a.m.

School Hours

Kindergarten

Morning kindergarten: 8:40-11:45

Afternoon kindergarten: 12:20-3:20

Friday and Shorten Schedule Days

Morning Kindergarten 8:40-10:45

Afternoon Kindergarten 11:30-1:30

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 our Back-to-School Open House.

First-Sixth Grades

M T W Th: 8:40-3:20

Friday: 8:40-1:30

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.

You can go online to the Provo School District web page (provo.edu) and click on *Bus Stop Map* under *For our Parents* on the right side of the web page. You will enter your address and the map will show you where the closest bus stop is and the pickup time.

Dropping Off and Picking Up your Children

(1) Please note that **there will be NO ACCESS in our former north carpool area** outside of the Wasatch Too building. **All carpool traffic will funnel through our two areas at the main entrance and the south playground areas.**

(2) Walking and biking students may access the Wasatch Too building through doors at the northeast and south of the school. These doors will be locked at 8:40 each morning.

(3) The only remaining open door will be the main entrance at the front of the school, and will remain the only entrance throughout the school day.

(4) If carpooling home, please arrange to pick up your child in one of the two carpool areas. We encourage neighborhood students to carpool together whenever possible.

(5) Parking in the northeast lot of Wasatch Too will only be available to Wasatch Staff.

Checking a Student IN or Out of School

If a student arrives after the 8:40 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 our students.

Family Vacations – Please try to plan vacations during scheduled school breaks.

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. An Admin Excuse Form is available online or in the school office to excuse up to 5 days if the child has a history of good attendance.

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.

Wasatch uses a PBIS model to address behavior concerns. (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports)

“Positive behavior supports are evidence based prevention and intervention practices that support the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral competence of all students.”

For more information please see www.pbis.org

Safe School 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 can access a copy of the Provo School District ***Safe School Policies and Procedures*** booklet on the Provo School District web site. A copy can be found online at: www.provo.edu/dep/studserv. 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.

Student Information

Leaving School Grounds

For your safety, 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, arrangements need to be made with your parents in the morning before leaving home or telephone them after school. Every classroom has a phone available for this purpose.

Play Dates

Please make arrangements for play dates (going to a friend’s home) before you 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.

A good homework time frame is 10 minutes per grade. (ie, 10 min 1st grade, 20 min 2nd grade, etc.) excluding

reading and Chinese homework.

No Swearing

Word choice represents your character. We want to help students 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.

Electronic Device Info - Wasatch Elementary, along with the Provo City School District Board of Education recognizes that electronic and *interfering devices* are both distracting and disruptive to the learning environment, and have the potential to be used to intimidate and /or threaten others. Therefore, such devices are not to be seen or heard in class unless the teacher's activity specifically requires their use.

If a cell phone or electronic device is brought to school, it is to be turned on vibrate or off and remain in the student's backpack during the school day (including lunch and recess, and while on school property before and after school). If this policy is violated school administration will take appropriate disciplinary action.

Interfering devices – This is any device that interferes with the educational process. This could include, but is not limited to, cameras, cell phones, camera telephones, Gameboys, tablets, ipods, lasers, laser pens or pointers, or other electronic equipment or disruptive objects.

Updated: 8/19

Unacceptable Behavior

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 not bring your own sports equipment to play with at school. The school will supply many kinds of outdoor equipment for students to use during recess.

Do not bring skateboards, rollerblades, 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 while on school property. Roller blades, bikes, scooters, etc. may not be used on the playground from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Bicycles and scooters are welcome at school, but do not ride them on the playground from 8:00 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.

Language Arts – Utah Core Standards “They are designed to ensure that all students are college and career ready in literacy no later than the end of high school. The K-12 Language Arts standards progress from kindergarten through twelfth grade to meet this goal.” Speaking, listening, thinking, reading, writing, and dramatic presentations provide opportunities for growth and development.

Math: The Math Core Standards will help prepare students as they study topics more in depth. 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.

Chinese Immersion: Dual language immersion offers a rich bilingual experience for young learners when their minds are developmentally best able to acquire a second language. Students begin in first grade and have the opportunity to participate through sixth grade. Students will spend half of their day learning in Chinese and the other half learning in English. We are providing integrated thematic instruction. Chinese will be the medium for content instruction rather than the subject of instruction. This opportunity provides a challenge that a number of our students enjoy. More information about this program can be found on our Wasatch Elementary web site.

Science: Hands-on experiments, demonstrations, field trips, science fairs and university professors extend and support our 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 last Monday afternoon, Tuesday and Wednesday morning in April.

Music: Our certified music teachers use the Kodály 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 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 computer labs, mini classroom labs, on our interactive Promethean Boards and with mobile laptop 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 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 grade 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 2nd grade.

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 – Satch Patch
- Service projects
- Positive recognition for respectful behavior
- Ladies' and Gentlemen's Corps
- Slogan painted above the stage: Today's good students make tomorrow's good citizens.
- Golden Paw Award

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 one's 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 the United States and other countries.

“Generally, public schools may teach about religious holidays, and may celebrate the secular aspects of the holiday and objectively teach about their religious aspects. They may not observe the holidays as religious events. Schools should generally excuse students who do not wish to participate in holiday events.

“. . . students enjoy the right to read their Bibles or other scriptures, say grace before meals, pray before tests, and discuss their religion with other willing student listeners.

“Students may express their religious beliefs in the form of reports, homework, and artwork and such expressions are constitutionally protected.”

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 84th Street
Suite 501
New York, New York 10028

“The use of religious symbols as examples of religious or cultural heritage is permissible as a teaching aid or resource. Religious symbols should only be displayed on a temporary basis as part of the academic program.

“Sacred music may be sung or played as part of a school’s academic program. School concerts that present a variety of selections may include religious music. The use of music, art, drama, or literature with religious themes is permissible if it serves a sound educational goal in the curriculum, but not if used as a vehicle for promoting religious belief.

The above quotes are taken from another pamphlet *A Parent’s Guide to Religion in the Public Schools*. (Published by The National PTA and The First Amendment Center.) Download a free copy online at 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.

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. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 http://www.wasatch.provo.edu/Site_Home/SupplyLists.htm Notice: the items on these lists are optional. No elementary school student may be required to bring any of these supplies to school. This list is compiled solely to provide information to parents or guardians who wish to voluntarily furnish supplies for student use. Equivalent supplies will be furnished by the school to all students free of charge as necessary.

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

Cafeteria

Students may bring a sack lunch or purchase lunch in the cafeteria for \$2.00. If students choose to go home for lunch they **must** have a note from their parents and 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 beginning at 8:00 a.m. and costs \$1.25. All children should be finished eating by 8:30 a.m. to get to class on time.

Students should 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. Payments can be paid online by following the links from the Wasatch website www.wasatch.provo.edu

Free and reduced lunch applications are mailed to all families in August (**applications need to be submitted each year**) and are also available online on the Provo School District website www.provo.edu. 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.

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.

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.

School Community 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. Nominations and elections are held each spring.

Progress Reports

Teachers send regular progress reports home to parents. Parents may also access their child's academic progress and attendance via the Internet in *PowerSchool*. Log onto the Provo School District's home page at: 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 (m/d/yy).

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 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.

Two regularly scheduled SEP (Student Education Plan) 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.

Communication by Email and Canine Carriers (K-9)

While the newsletter and most information are being sent by email, some information is sent with the youngest child in each family. He/she is designated as the *K-9 Carrier*. This child will receive bulletins and other relevant publications. Please teach your child to get this information home to you promptly so you don't miss important information. If you don't have access to a computer please let the office know; we will be happy to give your child a hardcopy of the weekly newsletter. To subscribe to the weekly Wasatch newsletter contact the office.

Student Placement for 2019-2020

Wasatch Elementary teachers and the principal collaborate in determining student placement for the following year. A great deal of consideration and effort is put into each placement. Our goal is to ensure that classes are balanced in relation to differing levels of academic strength, class size, and boy/girl ratio. Too many parent requests for specific teachers make classroom equity nearly impossible to achieve, and create classroom dynamics that can be unfair to both the students and the teacher.

If you don't have a special need or concern, we appreciate the trust you place in us for the placement of your child. A parent input form is available in the office if it is needed. These acceptable forms are available in the office on the first day of June and will be considered as new classes are organized during the first of July.

School Choice

Wasatch Elementary accepts families who live outside the school boundaries when there is available space in the requested grade level. School Choice applications are initiated through the Student Services Office at 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:

- 90% attendance – no more than five absences. 3 tardies equal 1.
- Class assignments completed and turned in on time with at least an 80% achievement level
- No discipline problems that could result in suspension
- Transportation provided by parents

Students should not be dropped off earlier than 8:25, 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

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 – Satch 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 Satch Patch. Applications are available in the office the end

of February or first part of March.

Wasatch S.T.A.R. Reading Challenge: (STAR - Students Thrilled About Reading)

Students in first-sixth grades can be in the Wasatch S.T.A.R. Reading Hall of Fame by completing the S.T.A.R. reading challenge for their grade/reading level. Their name and picture are posted in the library for recognition. Applications are available in the library. The Caldecott Reading Challenge is open to all students to complete if they would like that opportunity.

Writers Olympics: Students in third – sixth grades have the opportunity to write a story and enter it in the Writers Olympics. This competition takes place during the second half of the year. An assembly is held after the writing is judged; all students receive some recognition. Medals are awarded to selected authors.

Choir: A madrigal-type concert choir, directed by Traci Jones and Katherine Chipman, where Kodály music skills are essential in learning the repertoire 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 before school on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Teresa Dickson directs our third grade choir; that choir meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. All third grade students 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 grade has a grade level bee. Get a list of the words from your teacher.

Science Fair: Students in fourth – 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. The third grade holds a grade level science fair. Information about and requirements for the science fair can be obtained from your child's teacher.

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/Orchestra: Sixth grade students can participate in the band or orchestra that is intended to introduce them to brass and woodwind instruments and string instruments in preparation for middle school.

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.

Wasatch Track and Field Day: Students in third-sixth grades participate in their choice of three events in this meet. It is held at a high school track in May. Students who break a previous school record have their name and picture mounted on the Record Board located in the main hall outside the gym. Each year we are hopeful that at least one new record will be set.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an essential factor in the success of Wasatch Elementary. Many of our outstanding programs are initiated and directed by parents. Here are some examples of ways you can volunteer:

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 our Back-to-School Open House or on the first day of school.

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, Wasatch Track Meet, etc.).
- e. Be a teacher for Junior Achievement. (Present six 30-45 minute lessons. All materials and lesson plans are provided.)
- f. Assist with emergency preparedness

Contact the PAWS President, Social Skills Literature to offer your services.

All volunteers and visitors to the school need to 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 sent by email 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:

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.

Flags from countries where Wasatch students were born are displayed. Student names are listed under each flag. Many of these international students are from BYU families living in Provo while a parent obtains a graduate degree.

Wasatch Track and Field Record Board contains our school champions. Their picture remains up until someone beats their record. We hold a school meet annually.

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.

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.

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. **Student artwork** displayed in the main foyer is just an example of the fine work our students produce.

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.

Stained Glass windows in the main office and library were designed and made by the sixth grade students as their gift to the school.

The **PAWS bulletin board** wishes each child a happy birthday and tells of upcoming events for the year.

The Guided Reading Library is where our extensive leveled book collection is housed. These books are checked out by teachers for classroom use.

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.

Children love to have their **work displayed in the hall** by their classroom.

Wasatch Too, formerly the Oakridge School, was added to our campus as our school grew. We currently have second, third and fourth grades in that building as well as a special programs classroom and our after school program. This building has another gym and an open area for grade level events, which is very beneficial to our growing student body.

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 the 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, our ELL Teacher, at 374-4910 at least three working days prior to the meeting or activity.

Wasatch Elementary School Song

There is a school that's called "The Wasatch" where we love to be each day.
Teachers here, and friends are near to help us work and play.

We're proud to say that we're from "Wasatch" we really think it's grand!
We'll sing and we'll SHOUT, for there is no doubt we're the best school in the land!

Wasatch Rap

If you want a good education
And you want to be cool,
Then get "Satch"-urated
"Satch"-urated at Wasatch School.

The students at Wasatch
Have been put to the test.
And they always test out
As being the best!

Now Wasatch is the home

So. . .

Of a mascot named "Satch."
There's not a mascot around
That he couldn't match!
"Satch"-urated at Wasatch School.
Red (clap) Yellow (clap)
Our colors stand true.

If you want a good education
And you want to be cool,
Then get "Satch"-urated

Now we've got the pep And the spirit, too!

Top Dog Days: When attending special events, dress accordingly. Teachers will notify their students regarding these events.

Fridays are School Spirit Day: Wear your school shirt or red and yellow, the school colors.

