

Chatsworth Avenue School PTA

New Families Welcome Package

Welcome to Chatsworth Avenue School! Below you will find information on our most frequently asked questions. We hope you find this resource helpful. Please feel free to reach out to any of us with any questions, or to simply introduce yourself as new to our community.

Most of the information below is also found on the Chatsworth PTA
<http://mamkschoolspta.org/chatsworth/>

Homepage:

Tiffany and Tracy (PTA Co-Presidents 2019-2020)

Tiffany Smith // 917-804-0304 // smith10538@gmail.com

Tracy Ferrara // 917-647-3797 // tracylferrara@yahoo.com

Casey & Amy (Welcome New Families Chairs)

Casey Halliley // 917-359-2501 // caseyhalliley@gmail.com

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Key District Info

Website: www.mamkschools.org

Calendar: www.mamkschools.org/calendar

Key Chatsworth information

Principal: Katie Andersen

Asst Principal: Lauren Scharfstein

School day starts at 8:45am. Doors open at 8:38am and close at 8:45. After 8:45am, children need to enter via the front entrance (on Forest Ave)

- First day of school: Parents are welcome to walk their children to their class.
- 1st grade parents: Can accompany children until Sept 12th
- Kindergarten parents Can accompany children until Sept 17th

School day ends at 3:00pm. Your teacher will tell you on the first day, where you will meet the class after school.

Find school supply lists on our website.

Our district runs on a 6-day schedule. Don't worry, you'll get used to it very quickly. Days are numbered, 1-6. The day is always displayed on the district calendar above. You will get information from your teacher(s) about which classes/activities take place on which day for each class. Each class is different. One of the key things that rotates by the day is Specials class (PE (3), Art (1), Music (1), Library (1)). Other activities that might rotate by day: band and orchestra lessons, Community Council meetings, book clubs.

PTA New Families Checklist

Activity / Program	How to Get Started
<p>PTA Back to School Registration</p>	<p>Before the first week of school, you should receive an email from the PTA with the ability to purchase a yearbook, graduation activities (5th grade only), sign up for pizza (see below), become a member of the PTA and much more.</p> <p>If you do not receive this email, contact chatsworthpta@gmail.com to make sure you are on the email list.</p>
<p>PTA / School News: Weekly Chat</p> <p>The email blast arrives every Sunday evening and is your one-stop-shop for all things Chatsworthy. It will quickly become an indispensable tool to ensure that you are linked in to the school community calendar.</p>	<p>Send an email to chatsworthpta@gmail.com and they will add your email address to our Weekly Chat distribution list.</p> <p>Please also be sure to visit the school's district home page (Chatsworth) for updates from Principal Katie Andersen that contain valuable school, district and community news. Mrs. Andersen also maintains a Blog and a Chatsworth School Facebook page.</p>
<p>A to Z Directory/Directory</p>	<p>This is an electronic directory used throughout the district to allow you to find parents and children in your school.</p> <p>Through the PTA back to school registration, you will be able to purchase a hard copy of this directory.</p>
<p>Pizza:</p> <p>Seems like an odd first priority, but we know after their first Wednesday in our cafeteria, your kids will agree this is Job #1. A 30+ year tradition at Chatsworth, many of our students participate in our pizza lunch each Wednesday. Pizza is provided by one of our local pizza parlors via Aramark, our district food provider. It is typically served starting in October and runs through the end of the school year. You may also sign up to serve pizza to the kids on Wednesdays - a popular volunteer opportunity.</p>	<p>Register your child for pizza Wednesdays through our Back to School packet. Pizza, and all other hot lunch, is purchased by creating and funding an account on www.myschoolbucks.com. Your child's student ID is required, which you can get from the Parent Portal.</p>

<p>Classroom Communications: Each class has a parent of Room Representatives who act as a liaison between teachers and parents. Reaching out to your Room Rep will ensure that you are included in your teacher's announcements, celebrations and signups for volunteer activities.</p>	<p>Send an email to Glenna Lee (glee1017@gmail.com) - the PTA's Exec Board member in charge of Communications & Room Reps - and she will put you in touch with the Room Reps that represent your children's classes.</p>
<p>Yearbook: The Chatsworth Yearbook is a treasured keepsake across all grades in the school. As new students arrive throughout the year, our parent volunteers do their very best to capture a photo for each child before the print deadline. School photos are taken in early October, so if you arrive after this time, you will need to arrange to have a photo taken.</p>	<p>Place an order for your yearbook through the Back to School packet. If you move mid-year, please contact: Rachel Hazan (rachelbrecher@hotmail.com) or Susan Girling (sbb.nyc@gmail.com)</p>
<p>Graduation: The fifth grade year is a very special time at Chatsworth and the calendar is full of events and trips that celebrate this important milestone. Each graduate's baby photo is displayed in the Yearbook, and their kindergarten photo is published in a Graduation Memory Book.</p>	<p>The Fifth Grade chairs will reach out regarding all fifth grade activities.</p>
<p>Special Education: If your family requires special education services, you may find that joining the Special Education PTA is helpful to you. Visit http://mamkschoolspta.org/septa/ for more information.</p>	<p>The Chatsworth PTA's SEPTA reps are) and Laura Woelfel (Laura.brancato@gmail.com) and Nicola Cutler (nicola.cutler032@gmail.com)</p>

Other Info Worth Knowing

PTA Events and Community Information

1. How do I stay current on what is happening at Chatsworth?

Once you are set up on our distribution list for the Weekly Chat, you will quickly become in the know on key dates and things to remember. Besides the email newsletter, the Chatsworth PTA has a website that serves as a resource with the latest information on opportunities for students and parents. You can find our site at:
<http://mamkschoolspta.org/chatsworth/>.

2. Are there after school programs my child can participate in?

Starting this fall, the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle will be offering After School Clubs at Chatsworth. Please check the website of the BGCNR for more info on their schedule (<http://www.bgcnr.org>).

There are also sports and games after school clubs, which is offered by Tiger Paw sports. These clubs include dodge ball, floor hockey etc. Sign up information for Tiger Paw sports will typically come home as flyers in your children's backpacks through the year.

3. Is there a Hot Lunch program at school and is it a popular service?

Most children bring their lunch from home each day, except for the pizza lunch tradition each Wednesday. Hot lunches on other days can be purchased at school in the cafeterias through our food service provider Aramark. Pizza, and all other hot lunch, is purchased by creating and funding an account on www.myschoolbucks.com. The hot lunch menu for the current month is on the District website. There is also a link from the PTA's site and the Weekly Chat.

4. What other enrichment opportunities exist at Chatsworth? At Chatsworth we are very proud of our PTA-sponsored programs such as Assemblies, Author visits and Art Appreciation. Please see our website for more details.

5. Are there international families at the school? There are many international families at the school and there is a PTA group for international parents that meets on a monthly basis. Please contact Jenny Milward (jennyliangmilward@gmail.com) for more information.

6. When will I have the opportunity to meet with my child's teacher? Back to school nights are the first chance to hear from your teacher and learn about what your child will be learning throughout the year. Parent-teacher conferences are conducted twice a year, once in November or December and once in April. On these days, school dismisses early to accommodate these meetings. Please contact your teacher directly to arrange meetings outside of conference times.

7. Who do I speak to if my child has allergies or a special diet? Before your child arrives, or shortly thereafter, please reach out to your teacher and our school nurse so that they can be kept informed of your child's particular needs as well as any medication that should be kept on hand in case of a reaction. The nurse can be reached by phone at 914-220-3500, ext 3510. Each classroom manages allergies based on the needs of the students in that classroom. At lunchtimes, there are designated tables in the cafeteria for those with food sensitivities in order to ensure children are not exposed to an allergen.

8. How can I get involved with the PTA? There are no shortage of ways to support our PTA for all levels of time and experience. Please reach out to the current co-Presidents: Tiffany Smith and Tracy Ferrara at chatsworthpta@gmail.com. We run many programs, including Art Appreciation, #Better Together and Wellness & Nutrition efforts, and we have an incredibly engaged team of volunteers that contribute to making Chatsworth feel like a community.

For more information on each program, and to reach out to the Volunteer Chairs to see how best to help, please view the PTA website: <http://mamkschoolspta.org/chatsworth/> . For information on District Wide holidays, early dismissals and events please refer to the calendar available at www.mamkschools.org. Chatsworth has its own page.