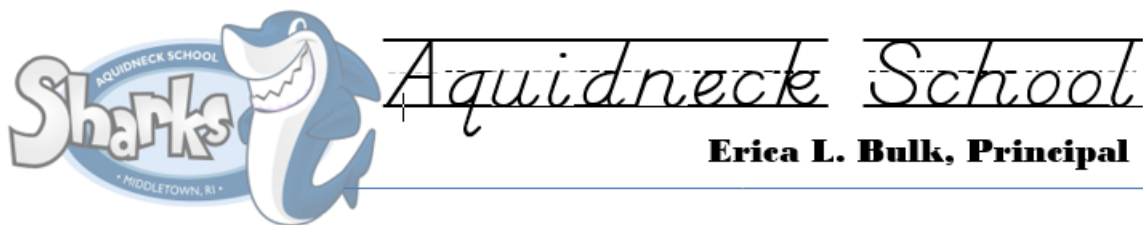




# **Aquidneck Elementary School**

**70 Reservoir Road  
Middletown, RI 02842  
401-847-4921**

**Middletown Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other youth groups.**



Dear Aquidneck School Families:

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year. Aquidneck School is committed to making sure our students are successful in all that they do. We take pride in working with each student to ensure they recognize the accomplishments they are making each day of the school year.

Our school's mission is "Ensuring Success for Every Student." We will work each day in order for every student at Aquidneck to be successful. However, we believe this is a TEAM approach and we can only do this with your help. With that in mind, we need your help in do the following:

- Come to school every day and be on time. Attendance is an important component to school success.
- Play an active role in their child's education.
- Work collaboratively with teachers to optimize success for all children.
- Foster independence in their children.
- Be active in our school celebrations

If at any time you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the teachers or me. You may contact me at [ebulk@mpsri.net](mailto:ebulk@mpsri.net). If you would like to contact others on our faculty and staff by email, each person's address is their first initial, last name@mpsri.net. Also our school uses see-saw to communicate with families.

Sincerely,

Erica L. Bulk  
Principal

**Middletown Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other youth groups.**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope this letter finds you and your family well. As we begin the new school year, we want to ensure that all families are familiar with the policies and procedures outlined in the Aquidneck School Student Handbook. This handbook is an essential resource that provides important information about our school's expectations, rules, and guidelines.

We kindly ask that you take the time to go over the Student Handbook. After reviewing the handbook, please discuss the importance of following the rules and expectations at school. This will help reinforce the importance of adhering to the school's policies and will ensure that your child understands their responsibilities as a student at Aquidneck School.

Once you have reviewed the handbook, please sign and date the acknowledgment section below and have your child return this portion to their homeroom teacher by **September 9th, 2026**. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated, as it helps us maintain a safe and supportive learning environment for all students and families.

If you have any questions or need clarification on any part of the handbook, please do not hesitate to contact us at Aquidneck School at 401-847-4921. You can also email me directly at [ebulk@mpsri.net](mailto:ebulk@mpsri.net).

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education.

Sincerely,

Erica L. Bulk  
Principal

### **Acknowledgment of Review**

We, the undersigned, confirm that we have read and discussed the Aquidneck School Student Handbook with our child. We understand the importance of following the guidelines set forth in the handbook.

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Aquidneck School Information

## School Hours

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8:25 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.                      Grades K-3  
Doors open at 8:15 a.m.

**PREK3 8:35 - 11:15 Tues - Fri**  
**PREK4 12:15 - 3:00 Mon - Fri**

## Office Hours

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8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

## Office Staff

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|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Ms. Erica Bulk            | Principal         |
| Mrs. Mary Groff           | Secretary         |
| Mrs. Robin Peckham        | Teacher Assistant |
| Mrs. Amanda Beuttenmuller | School Nurse      |

## School Directory

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|             |                                                                       |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Phone       | (401) 847-4921                                                        |
| Fax         | (401) 846-7010                                                        |
| Web Site    | <a href="https://www.mpsri.net/o/aes">https://www.mpsri.net/o/aes</a> |
| Bus Company | (401) 619-4711                                                        |



## School Bag Tags

A name tag has been included in the start of the school year packet for each student.

**Please put your child's name, address, phone number, grade, bus stop, bus number or daily dismissal information on this tag.** Attach the tag to their backpack.

## School Hours **8:25-3:00**

**For the safety of your child, please do not drop him/her off or let them walk to school prior to 8:15 AM.** Prompt arrival at school is expected of all students. All students are expected to be inside the building by 8:25 A.M. Any child not arriving by 8:25 A.M. is considered tardy. **For your child's safety, we request that in the case of an absence you call the school office at 847-4921 prior to the start of the school day.**

## Arrival

As students arrive, they will go into classrooms. Staff will be at the various entrances to help them get to their room. Drop offs will enter door **A1** or **A2**. If you need a quick drop off, please use the front circle drop off. If your child needs more help in the morning, please walk your child to the flagpole and the crossing guard will cross your child. **Parents should not be coming to the front door.** This is to help with the flow of traffic and to keep everyone safe. Bus students will enter the following entrances. Kindergarten students will enter door **B4**. Grade 1 students will enter door **B5**. Grades 2 and 3 will enter door **C9**.

## Dismissal

Please read the Aquidneck School Dismissal Sheet carefully and select from the 4 options. ( walker, car pick up, bus and after school.) Please understand that **CONSISTENCY** in our school routines are the most important element in ensuring a safe and smooth dismissal.

### **Early Dismissal/Change in Dismissal**

If you need to make a change in dismissal, please send a WRITTEN note first thing in the morning. You may also send an email to [mgroff@mpsri.net](mailto:mgroff@mpsri.net). Please do not call the school with changes or come in with no warning to dismiss. This causes us to have to interrupt classrooms and spend time reorganizing our dismissal plans. NO CHANGES will be made after 1 PM. All written notes should include your child's name, release time, and the person with whom he/she is to be released. This note will be forwarded to the school office. For your child's safety, parents and guardians are required to sign out their child in the office at the time of early dismissal. In some cases, it may be necessary to ask for identification if we are unfamiliar with the person who is picking up the child.

### **Attendance**

School attendance is a powerful predictor of student outcomes. Rhode Island defines chronic absenteeism as the percentage of students who miss 10% or more of school days during the year (or two days per month). Research shows that chronic absenteeism is associated with a number of negative consequences for students, including lower achievement, disengagement from school, course failure, and an increased risk of dropping out. Attending school each day is critical to our students' success! We know some absences are unavoidable, but any absence makes it more difficult for children to keep up with the daily learning needed to grow and succeed. Each month letters will be sent to families of students that have missed 10% or more of the school year. We want to work together with our families to ensure students are in school every day. Please visit the RIDE website [attendance matters](#) to learn more about the importance of attendance!

### **Tardies**

Students that arrive at school after 8:25 am are considered tardy. Arriving at school on time and starting their day with their peers is essential to ensuring students have a successful day. While we understand some tardies are unavoidable, it is important for families to work hard to get their students to school on time each day to set them up for success. Each month letters will be sent to families of students that have been tardy

10% or more of the school year. We want to work together with our families to ensure students are in school on time every day.

### **Vacation Absence**

We encourage you to schedule your vacation time during our winter or spring breaks. If the need arises to take your child out of school for an extended period, please notify your child's teacher. While teachers often plan their lessons weeks in advance, individual assignments are given based on the outcome of daily lessons. It is not always possible to have these assignments before a family vacation. Upon return, make-up work may be assigned depending on the lessons missed and the subject matter involved.

### **EMERGENCY & SAFETY DRILLS**

Fire and other emergency drills and lockdowns occur at regular intervals as required by law. They are a necessary safety precaution. Students, with their teachers, will study the plans and become familiar with them. It is essential that when the first signal is given, everyone obeys promptly and clears the building by the prescribed route as quickly and quietly as possible in an orderly fashion.

No one is permitted to talk during drills, and everyone must remain away from the building until the principal or other authorized representative gives the signal to re-enter.

### **CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

MPS Cell Phone Policy: All electronic devices, including personal cell phones and smart watches are not allowed to be used at any Middletown Public School ( see linked policy). Students should leave these items at home, as they are too valuable to be at school. If devices are sent to school, they will need to be off and kept in backpacks. Parents should not be texting their children during the school day. If you need to get a message to your child, please call the office. Failure to follow the MPS cell phone policy, will require parents to pick up the device in the main office. [MPS Cell Phone Policy](#)

### **Food Services**

Aquidneck School participates in the Chartwells School Lunch Program. The menu, developed by Chartwells, is sent home monthly. They also offer a breakfast program. Breakfast is served each morning. You are able to place money on your child's automated lunch account using [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) We encourage you to take

advantage of this feature. Applications for free and reduced lunch will be sent home on the first day of school.

### **Bus Services**

Bus services are provided by Ocean State transit. You can contact them at 401-619-4711. For each student's safety, we expect safe, responsible and respectful behavior of our students when riding the bus. Our full bus policy was given to you upon registration and can also be found on the district website. **Please note that K students are the only grade who will not be dropped off if there is not a parent/designee present at the stop.**

### **Medication**

Due to state regulations, all medication in school MUST be accompanied by a doctor's order at all times. Forms for the doctor are available in the school office. Please contact the school nurse, if you have any questions. Please **DO NOT** send students to school with medicine in their backpacks.

### **Parent Volunteers- All volunteers MUST complete a criminal background check.**

Aquidneck School considers its parent volunteers as a very special resource. Parents are encouraged to help in classrooms, programs, and extracurricular activities. Please let us know if you have time or skills you can donate to make our school a better place for students to learn and grow. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the MPS volunteer packet. A new application is necessary each year.

### **Parent Teacher Group**

Our PTG is a wonderful and supportive group. You will be hearing from them throughout the year and there are MANY opportunities for you to join in. We encourage you to get involved with this awesome group.

### **Behavior**

Our school wide behavior plan is in place to help all students be their best. This positive and ever improving program has been designed to make Aquidneck School a safe, happy and nurturing place for all students to learn. On the behavioral level, we have three goals for our students; safety, responsibility and respect. We work to be fair

through this process. We will also remind students we have a zero tolerance policy for bullying, weapons and any type of drug in our school.

The learning community is committed to teaching, demonstrating, and reinforcing our universal expected behaviors. To create a safe, supportive, and caring learning environment; the following definitions and procedures will be followed:

**Sharkie's Rules: Students will Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful**

|                            | <b>Be Safe</b>                                                                                     | <b>Be Respectful</b>                                                                       | <b>Be Responsible</b>                                                                           |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bus</b>                 | Remain seated at all times<br><br>Follow the directions of the driver and monitor                  | Speak to friends in a quiet voice<br><br>Be kind to others on the bus                      | Be ready for when it's time for you to exit the bus<br><br>Take all of your belongings with you |
| <b>Dining Room</b>         | Only eat food that belongs to you<br><br>Raise your hand to ask a question                         | Use appropriate table manners when eating<br><br>Follow the directions of the adults       | Clean up after yourself<br><br>Throw away your trash into the appropriate receptacles           |
| <b>Recess</b>              | Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself<br><br>Freeze when the whistle blows and walk to line up | Use kind words and play with everyone<br><br>Take Turns & Share                            | Follow playground safety rules<br><br>Take Care of Property                                     |
| <b>Hallways and Stairs</b> | Walk in all hallways<br><br>Stay to the right side of the hallway                                  | Listen to your teacher<br><br>Stay an appropriate distance from the person in front of you | Voices should be quiet<br><br>Keeps hands and feet to self                                      |
| <b>Restrooms</b>           | Go, Flush, Wash Hands, Leave                                                                       | Allow privacy to other students in the bathroom                                            | Return directly to your classroom<br>Clean up after yourself                                    |

**SCHOOL COUNSELING**

School counseling services are available to every student. These services include assistance with advice on personal, school, social, educational planning, study help,

interpretation of test scores, or any other question, which a student or parent or guardian would like to discuss.

Aquidneck School shares a social worker and a school psychologist with Forest Avenue School. At least one staff member is always in the building. Some of this time is dedicated to IEP, 504, and parent meetings. The other time is dedicated to working with small groups of students. To receive support from a social worker or psychologist, students should be referred based on a school related need such as executive functioning support, support with self-regulation, social skills groups, etc. Parents wishing additional support for their child/dren for out of school issues or needs, should contact a local outside provider. Our school social worker and psychologist can help with these suggestions.

### **Lunch and Recess Information**

**Aquidneck School's lunch times are as follows:**

**GRADE 3 - 11:30 am - 11:55 pm**

**GRADE 2 - 12:00 pm - 12:25 pm**

**GRADE 1 - 12:30 pm - 12:55 pm**

**KINDERGARTEN - 1:00 pm - 1:25 pm**

**Aquidneck School's recess times are as follows:**

**GRADE 3 - 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm**

**GRADE 2 - 11:30 am - 12:00 pm**

**GRADE 1 - 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm**

**KINDERGARTEN - 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm**

## **LOST AND FOUND**

Students should look for and consult with their teachers to find lost items in the classroom and gym areas. Students may also check the "lost and found" section in the school's foyer to look for misplaced items. Unclaimed items are donated to a charitable organization after a lengthy period.

## **Aquidneck's Policy on Birthday Celebrations**

*We feel every birthday is special, in keeping our wellness policy; we would like to celebrate your child's special day without sugary snacks! Here are some options:*

- Send in a non-food item - stickers, pencils, erasers, etc.
- Donate a book to the class in honor of your child's birthday. On your child's special day a member of his/her family may come in and read that book to the class.
- All Birthdays are announced on the morning announcements.

### **OUR INVITATION POLICY-**

*If you would like to distribute birthday invitations in school, please include ALL students, ALL boys or ALL girls. If you are only sending a few invitations out, please mail them.*

## **Communication and Social Media Information**

### **Weekly Principal Emails**

A school communication through email will be sent out weekly during the school year. This is filled with information about what is happening at Aquidneck School and upcoming events.

### **Middletown Public Schools and Aquidneck School's Website**

To access the Middletown Public Schools website please go to <https://www.mpsri.net/>

You can access Aquidneck School's website on the right hand side pull down menu or at <https://www.mpsri.net/o/aes>.



### **Facebook**

If you would like to join our facebook page please click on <https://www.facebook.com/WeareMiddletown> to become a facebook friend.



### **Twitter**

Please click on <https://twitter.com/WeareMiddletown> if you would like to become a member of our twitter community.



### **Instagram**

<https://www.instagram.com/middletownpublicschoolsri?igsh=eDFuYnZ0b2loeWdh>



It's everything Middletown,  
**in your pocket.**

Cafeteria Menus · Events · Staff Directory · Alerts · Athletics



### **Middletown Public Schools Apps**

Our Middletown App can be downloaded on the App Store or at  
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/id1526191404>

Our Middletown App can also be downloaded on Google Play at  
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.apptegy.middletown>