

Lower School First Day FAQs

Welcome to Friends Select! We know you probably have some questions about the first day of school, so we thought we would try to answer as many of them as possible. You should know that almost everything you need to know is in the Lower School Handbook, which is available on line at the school website parent section.

Sept. 9, 8:15 a.m. - First day of school
8:30 a.m. - *New Parent Welcome Reception* in the dining hall
Sept. 22, 6:00 p.m. – *Back to School Night*
Sept. 25 – *Lower School Picture Day*
Oct. 6 - *Brown and Gold Day* for students only
Oct. 7 – In-service day for faculty, no school for students
Oct. 13, 6:00 p.m. – *LS Specialists Night*
Oct. 21, 8:15-9:00 a.m. – *Director of Lower School coffee*
Oct. 31, 8:45-9:30 a.m. – *Halloween Parade*
Nov. 3 & 4 – *Parent/Teacher Conferences*
Nov. 18, 8:15-9:00 a.m. *Director of Lower School coffee*
Dec. 2, 9:00 a.m. – *Winter Concert* grades 3, 4
Dec. 9, 9:00 a.m. – *Winter Concert* grades 1, 2
Dec. 16, 2:00 p.m. – *Holiday Sing* at the Meeting House

How do I drop my child off in the morning?

There is a morning greeter available in the parking lot from 7:45 -8:15 a.m. You should feel free to drive through the car line and the greeter will escort your child where s/he needs to go. If you want to walk your child in to school, you will need to park elsewhere than the school lot. See the handbook for more information (pp. 3-4).

What time does school start?

School starts at 8:15 a.m. There is supervised care (for free) in the dining room starting at 7:30 a.m. The prekindergarten and kindergarten classrooms open at 8:00 a.m. Grades 1-4 lower school classrooms open at 8:10 a.m. All children should be in their classrooms by 8:15 a.m.

What time does school end?

The school day ends at 3:00 p.m. At that time, children head to either the back door for dismissal to parent/caregiver, the Friends Select bus, the public school bus, or the After School Program (ASP).

You can pick up your child from the back door any time between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m. At 3:30 p.m., if a student is still awaiting pick up, a phone home from the LS office will be made to determine arrangements. Students who have not been picked up will enter the ASP and the family will incur a fee based on the time spent there awaiting pick up.

At 3:30 p.m., any children playing on the playground during dismissal time and who are not enrolled in the ASP are asked to depart campus for the day.

The After School Program runs from 3:00-6:00 p.m. You may pick up your child from ASP any time between 3:30 and 6:00 p.m. With clear notice from parents, we will make sure children get to where they need to go at the end of the regular school day.

How do I pick up my child at the end of the day?

If you are picking up your child at the end of the regular school day (back door), you can either park elsewhere and walk into the school building, or stay in your car and proceed through the car line. If you choose to proceed through the car line, please do not get out of your car. A responsible Friends Select adult will escort your child to your car.

All children must check out with the teacher on duty. If you are picking up your child from ASP, please park your car and walk in the back door. You will sign your child out at the back desk, receive a pass, and find out in which room s/he is. Please see the handbook for more detailed information (p. 4).

How do I find out when my child will be picked up by the bus?

If your child is going to ride a public school bus, you should find out directly from the school district. If your child is going to ride a Friends Select bus, you will find out the pick up time either Friday or Tuesday before school starts.

My child will usually attend ASP, but I want to pick them up at 3:00 p.m. on the first day of school. What should I do?

You can always change your dismissal plan, either permanently or just for a day. Email or call the administrative assistant to lower school, Marissa Colston to let her know as early as possible, *but before 2:00 p.m.* (marissac@friends-select.org, 215-561-5900 ext. 116).

What does my child need to bring on the first day of school?

Teachers who want you to send in something specific to school will let you know. Otherwise, a backpack and a sweatshirt in case the air conditioning is chilly are both good ideas.

I want to walk my child into class the first day. How long should I stay?

Feel free to stay for a few moments to get your child acclimated. If s/he is upset, be sympathetic but matter-of-fact. "First days are a little scary, but you'll have fun, and I want to hear all about it when you get home." Don't prolong the goodbye. The hardest part for your child is the moment you leave. Once you say you are leaving, go quickly. All parents should leave the classrooms by 8:30 a.m.

How will I know if my child is OK on the first day?

Feel free to call or email Amy Segel (ext. 150, amys@friends-select.org). She is happy to check on your child and call or email you back. In our experience, most children, even if the separation is upsetting, are happily involved in their day within moments.

Welcome to Friends Select!