



New Garden
FRIENDS SCHOOL

Rainbow

(Grades 1 and 2)

Handbook

2023-24

Handbook for Rainbow (Grades 1 and 2)

Welcome to Rainbow! We are looking forward to a great year with you and your child. This handbook will help you understand the procedures of our level.

Contact Info

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Arrival and Dismissal

Rainbow Door Opens	Arrive by	Class Begins	Dismiss	Pickup	Pickup Location	Time sent to Extended Care
8:00 a.m.	8:25 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	3:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	Classroom Door	3:15 p.m.

The classroom opens at 8 a.m. each day. To help your child make an easy transition into the classroom, you may want to arrive by 8:15 or 8:20 a.m. Timely arrival and attendance at Morning Meeting are important for several reasons:

- We have a school-wide social curriculum that is grounded in Morning Meeting. This curriculum is designed to ensure a warm, safe, and rich learning environment here. When your child is late, they miss this critical (and fun) component of our school day.
- Arriving before Morning Meeting allows your child to take care of morning routines, such as putting away their cubby materials, in a non-disruptive manner.
- Promptness helps your child make a smooth transition into the school day because it allows them to focus attention on the classroom, peers, teachers, and the potential learning adventures before plunging into daily activities.
- Morning Meeting is the time for introducing to the children new subject matter and new materials, activities, and physical changes in the classroom. Understanding and recognizing new possibilities are essential for your child to make the most of their day.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures

- You will be given a name card to display on your car window visor. Please be sure to clearly display this card on the visor in the morning and afternoon; we appreciate your assistance in helping drop-off and pick-up run smoothly and efficiently.
- Drop-off will begin at 7:30 a.m. for [Extended Care](#) and 8 a.m. for the regular school day and will continue until 8:25 a.m. Please plan to arrive during this window of time.

- At arrival, staff will direct you through the carpool line to drop off your child. Students will use the sidewalk to walk to their classroom and will be assisted by staff.
- If your child arrives late, please bring your child to the office and sign them in. An adult needs to accompany your child to the office. Your child will be escorted by staff to their classroom.
- Dismissal is at 3 p.m. at the classroom doors. We ask that if you arrive a few minutes early, please wait outside as we bring the school day to closure. As we see, through the window, which parents/guardians have arrived, we dismiss children a few at a time in order to avoid traffic jams and chaos at the cubbies. If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up, please make sure the person you send is on your authorized pick-up list in ParentsWeb (FACTS Family Portal). Instruct them to have identification with them; staff will check the ID of anyone unknown to them. (Please note that changes may take up to 48 hours to update.)
- If you must pick your child up before school is over, please go to the office to sign your child out. If the early pick-up is for a scheduled appointment, please coordinate with your student's teacher in advance so they will have their belongings packed and ready to go at the designated time. If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up early, please make sure the person you send is on your authorized pick up list in ParentsWeb.
- Please email your student's contact teacher if they will be absent. If an extended absence from school is necessary, communicate with the Division Head at least one week in advance so that arrangements can be made for work. After contacting the Division Head concerning a protracted absence, parents/guardians of students in K-6th grades should contact teachers for assignments.

Extended Care

- Morning care is offered from 7:30-8 a.m.
- Afternoon extended care runs until 6 p.m.

Parking Lot Safety

Please help us keep everyone safe by observing the parking lot rules and following the directions of staff who assist with arrival and dismissal.

- When driving in our driveway or parking lot, **please do not use a handheld or hands-free phone.** Phone use, even hands-free, can distract drivers and make accidents more likely.
- Please drive slowly and slow down for speed bumps.
- Please use caution when backing out of parking spaces.
- Please be mindful of adults and our younger students going to and from their classrooms in the morning and afternoon. Please do not let your students run ahead of you when leaving or going to their vehicle.
- Please look for directions from staff during busy dismissal times. When a car is coming out, or when the car line is full, we will hold cars at the stop sign.

Social Curriculum

The social curriculum at NGFS is guided by a book written by Ruth Sidney Charney called "Teaching Children to Care: Management in the Responsive Classroom". This curriculum helps students become empathetic, ethical thinkers as they learn to interact successfully in the school environment.

- We value the social curriculum as an integral part of our overall program.
- Positive social interactions and a strong sense of community enhance cognitive growth.
- There is a set of social skills that students need in order to be successful academically and socially: cooperation, self-advocacy, responsibility, empathy, perseverance, self-control, and peaceful conflict resolution skills.
- Knowing the students we teach individually, culturally, and developmentally is essential to students' education and to developing community.
- Knowing the families of the students we teach and inviting their participation is essential to students' education and to developing community.
- Adults model the above skills through positive interactions with each other and with students.

Centering

Each class at NGFS makes its own set of guidelines. Students have a voice in developing the guidelines for their classroom which deepens their investment in carrying through with them.

Centering is a thinking place to reflect on behavior and the class guidelines. We go to great lengths to de-emphasize centering as punitive and to emphasize it as a time to regain self-awareness and self-control and prepare oneself to return to a group or activity fully ready to participate. Students begin to learn to reflect on the reasons they needed a centering so that they can take responsibility for their behavior. The entire process takes place as quietly and unobtrusively as possible, both for the sake of the child's dignity and of the learning taking place in the classroom. If a Rainbow student has repeated centerings, it may be necessary to have a centering at home, so that they can start fresh the next day.

A student who is having difficulty following the classroom guidelines may talk with the Division Head about the exhibited behavior and make a plan for improvement upon transition back to the classroom. Using the restorative practices model, we focus on finding solutions, applying logical consequences, and providing opportunities for reflection. The aim of restorative practices is to develop community and manage conflict and tensions by repairing harm and restoring relationships. For behaviors that involve physically hurting another child, a student will have a longer centering and a reminder that such behaviors may result in a centering in the office and a conversation with an administrator if they recur. Parents/guardians will be notified of such centerings so that follow-up conversations can happen at home. If such behavior recurs, the student may be sent home for the remainder of the school day. Natural consequences for serious behavior may include writing an apology note or missing a school activity or field trip. A student demonstrating disruptive behavior may be asked by the Division Head or Head of School to remain at home until a plan can be put in place to help the student safely transition

back to the classroom. If necessary, Student Threat Assessment Procedures (STAP) will be initiated (see Appendix, All School Handbook).

Snack and Lunch

Your child needs a lunch box with a snack, lunch, and a full, labeled reusable water bottle with a spill-proof cap each day. Please do not use glass containers or water bottles. Please do not send candy, soda, or caffeine. We ask that you send food that requires no preparation assistance from teachers. This includes heating, cooling, peeling, and preparing. We do not have refrigerator space for lunches, so pack lunches accordingly.

Families have the option to order hot lunches through My Hot Lunchbox, which partners with local restaurants to deliver nutritious meals to schools. Visit the [Back to School page](#) for more information and directions for creating an account and placing orders. If you have questions, please contact My Hot Lunchbox at 888-894-8295 or info@myhotlunchbox.com.

Please remember to send a snack on days your child orders hot lunch.

Clothing/Dress Code

We ask that you dress your child in play clothes and sturdy shoes. On your child's PE days, make sure your child wears tennis shoes. Please reserve flip-flops for home play. Consider sturdy simplicity in your choice of footwear to ensure that your child can easily remove and put on shoes independently -- Velcro-fastened sneakers are great. Please help your child choose clothing that is appropriate for school. We ask that students refrain from wearing shirts with exclusive messages about gender ("No Boys Allowed") or negative messages about behavior ("I'm Not Listening.") Also, please bring an extra set of clothing in a large, labeled Ziploc bag for your child to have at school in case of emergencies. Please label all outerwear with your child's name.

We will be outside as often as possible. Time spent outdoors is vital to children's well-being and we will be outside often, even in cold weather. Please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Raincoats are helpful on rainy days.

Personal Possessions at School

We ask that you assist your child in leaving toys at home (even little toys in pockets). We do not want personal items to become lost or broken.

Learning Support

At NGFS we value diversity in all of its dimensions and we understand that no child will develop academic skills at exactly the same pace or in the same way as their classmates. Our learning, reading, and math specialists frequently co-teach lessons and may work with a small group to preview or review concepts. The specialists provide small group instruction to students who may need to work at a different pace or have material presented in an alternative manner. Occasionally, the support we offer is not sufficient to meet a student's need and outside assistance may be necessary. In these cases, one of our learning specialists or your child's

contact teacher will request a conference with parents/guardians and teachers to discuss next steps.

Homework

We address developmental needs of first and second graders by completing most important work at school and by going through a careful modeling and preparation process before assigning the first homework. This step helps children develop the responsibility they will need in order to be successful with their homework.

Due to their developmental level, Rainbow students will not have daily homework, but we do encourage students to read to themselves or with an adult every day for about 20 minutes. Take Home folders with completed work and school notices will go home most Thursdays. Folders should be emptied and returned to school on Friday morning.

Birthdays

- Parents/guardians may send in birthday treats for the class and are welcome to visit the classrooms to be part of the birthday celebration.
- Balloons, party favors, etc. should be kept at home for the child's at-home celebration.
- Because we want to give students with summer birthdays equal attention, we will celebrate "half-birthdays" for students with birthdays between June 1 and the start of the next school year. For example, if your child's birthday is July 23, please check in with your child's contact teacher before January 23.
- We know that it is difficult and often impossible to have at-home birthday celebrations that include the whole class. Please be advised that not being invited to a birthday celebration can be devastating to children at this developmental level. Please send invitations through the mail or outside of school and ask your child not to discuss preparations/plans at school in order to protect classmates' feelings. Please refrain from bringing in gifts for parties or sending in thank you notes that are only for party guests. Gifts and thank you notes can be taken care of outside of school.

Visitors and Volunteers

We welcome parent/guardian volunteers in our classrooms. All volunteers are required to have a background check done through NGFS. Please contact the division head to complete a background check. Please check in with teachers to learn more about volunteer opportunities. Classroom volunteers are expected to maintain confidentiality.

Volunteers must sign in at the office and receive their visitor badge. At the end of their volunteer time, they must return to the office to sign out and return the visitor badge.

Guilford Campus Outdoor Play Guidelines

At NGFS we welcome all members of our community to use the **Upper Playground** and equipment after school dismisses. In order to be truly welcoming to everyone, we need to remember that our community includes people with different abilities and interests. To keep

everyone safe, please help us to be sure all visitors and students are following these guidelines when you are playing at the School.

During the afternoons from 2:30 until 3:20 p.m., we ask for your help by asking children who have been dismissed from class to stay on the lower side (away from the parking lot) of the play structure, so teachers can properly supervise students getting into cars or dismissing to other activities. Please be aware that later in the afternoon, Extended Care may bring a group of students onto the upper playground for outdoor play.

Boundaries and Manners:

- All activities should be inclusive and played in the spirit of caring.
- All children should be within sight of a responsible adult at all times.
- Shoes should be worn while outside and on the play structure.
- Children playing on the sidewalks should stop playing and move to allow people to pass.
- Please keep play activities out of the covered walkways and off the railing by the walkway ramp.
- Please ask children to stay out of the landscaped areas and off the brick wall beside the building.

Play Structure:

- Climbing should only be done on the inside of the play structure.
- If equipment goes under the structure, an adult should check for hazards (yellow jackets, spiders) before allowing a child to retrieve the item.
- Please use the picnic tables for sitting, not standing or jumping.

Materials/Toys:

- If building or playing with sticks, make sure they are not larger than your pinky finger.
- If using a ball, frisbee, or other object that can fly through the air, please make sure to keep the object under control (not randomly tossed or kicked) so it does not hit windows, buildings, or people.
- When you leave, please return the balls to the storage box located on the sidewalk above the back playground.
- Please keep the sand and sand toys inside the sandbox. If your family is the last group on the playground, please cover the sandbox at the end of use.

A Child's Garden Fenced Play Area: This area is only for A Child's Garden students being supervised by staff. It is used by A Child's Garden students during the school day and for A Child's Garden Extended Care from 2:30-6 p.m.

Lower Playground: Reserved for Extended Care only 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Questions and Communication

Please read email communications from NGFS as they contain important information. Families should read the Community Newsletter which is emailed weekly. In the newsletter, Rainbow teachers will provide a weekly update informing you about classroom learning, special events, field trips, and other announcements. The newsletter will also provide you with information on whole school events and calendar reminders. The NGFS website posts a whole school calendar and other whole school information. We will regularly share photos through Vidigami. Please

subscribe to the NGFS mobile app and enable notifications. Rainbow teachers will periodically send reminders through the app about class events.

Please talk with us about questions or concerns that you have. We can chat by phone, or if an extended time is needed, we can set up a conference before or after school. At the Hopes and Dreams conference in September, we will meet for you to share information that will help us learn more about your child and your family. In December and June, you will receive written evaluations of your child's progress.

If you wish to talk with us, you may call the office and leave a message on our voicemail so that we can call you at a convenient time. We check our messages at the end of the school day. We will also communicate via email. Emails will be responded to within 24 business hours.

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, from 6-7:30 p.m., we will have Lower School Parent Night. Please join us for a session about the Rainbow program.

Opportunities to Conference with Contact Teachers:

Hopes and Dreams Conference: Friday, Sept. 1

End of 1st Trimester Conference: Friday, Dec. 8

End of 2nd Trimester Conference: Thursday, Feb. 29 and Friday, March 1

Field Trips

At New Garden Friends School field trips are a vital part of the school curriculum. Students are able to learn in much greater detail when they not only study a subject in class, but also visit a location that reinforces and enhances the subject matter.

Parents/guardians will be notified when students are going off campus. Travel between campuses and to New Garden Friends Meeting and Guilford College are not considered off-campus.

Background checks are required for any parent/guardian volunteers, including field trip chaperones.

Technology

Computers, iPads, and Internet access are available to be used as tools to enhance student learning. Teachers will use technology when appropriate to supplement the class curriculum.

Each year, parents must review and sign the Acceptable Use Agreement (AUP), which is part of the Student Information form that is completed when students enroll or reenroll. Please take time to review online safety issues with your student.

Students are not allowed to have cell phones or other handheld "entertainment" devices on campus. Students may not bring their own technology devices, such as a laptop, iPad, Nook, or Kindle to support school work.

Families are asked to respect the privacy of students and other community members by not posting names or photos on social media sites without specific permission. Some families do not allow their child's picture to be posted anywhere on the Internet. Please respect this.