

Carr to Cabot

Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

What rooms are located on each floor of the school?

Cabot has three floors

Ground floor includes: Administrative offices, art, music, library, gym, cafeteria, psychologist, social worker, restrooms, conference room, nurse, and CASP room.

Second floor includes: Grades K/1/2, STRIDE classroom, small work areas, teacher workroom, restrooms, Special Education staff, Literacy team

Third floor includes: Grades 3/4/5, STRIDE classroom, small work areas, teacher workroom, restrooms, Special Education staff, Math team, ELL

Is the entire building air conditioned?

Yes. We are fortunate to have air conditioning throughout the building.

When are the early release days for 2019-2020?

The early release days are as follows: 9/26, 10/30, 12/4, 2/6, 3/19, 5/7

What are the expected class sizes and number of students in each grade?

The class sizes will depend on the number of students in each grade. Newton Public Schools is always aware of class sizes across the city. These numbers are monitored closely throughout the year.

Will the number of students continue to grow?

The current projections have Cabot ranging from 381 students up to 446 over the next 6 years. These are projections from the NPS Student Assignment Working Group that looks at long-term enrollment projects.

What is the STRIDE program and is it coming to Cabot?

STRIDE - **S**tructured **T**eaching through **R**esearch and **I**ntensive **D**evelopmental **E**xpectations. The mission of this program is to provide comprehensive programming and for students with autism and related disorders, using principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to increase independent functioning and decrease maladaptive behavior. Research consistently shows that early, intensive instruction using the methods of Applied Behavior Analysis helps children with autism learn and reach their full potential.

We will have two classroom spaces, along with additional ABA sensory resources/rooms, for the STRIDE program.

What is the school start and end time?

<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/810>

The start time is 8:30 every day. Students are permitted to enter the building at 8:20

The end time is 3:00 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

The end time is 12:30 Tuesday

Cabot has a before school program that starts at 7:30. Click [here](#) to find registration information.

Cabot has a variety of after school opportunities. There is an extra cost for these programs.

Does Cabot have full day kindergarten?

Yes, as of the 2019-2020 school year all NPS schools have full day kindergarten.

What will community use look like at the new Cabot?

The following [link](#) shows the process for requesting building space. We expect that the Cabot School will be used for after school and weekend events based on availability. During the first six months of the school evening program is limited.

Will doors continue to be locked?

Yes, the school doors will be locked. The doors are open during arrival (8:20 - 8:30) for students. Guest entry requires the office to permit entrance for any visitor.

What door do I enter as a visitor?

Between the hours of 8:20 - 3:00 visitors must enter the door closest to Cabot Street. This door is located between the gym wing and the library wing. This is the door that was used previously for guests. Please ring the bell to gain access into the building where you will be asked to sign in as a visitor.

What is the process and procedure for food allergies?

Cabot will follow the [NPS guidelines](#) for food and allergies.

Will my child's lunch be different with a new cafeteria?

NPS contracts with a food service provider that provides school lunch. Students also may receive unique a la carte options for students. This lunch menu will be available on the following [web page](#).

What are the phone numbers in the new building?

We will have the same phone numbers for main areas of Cabot School as we have used in previous years.

Office	617-559-9400
Nurse	617-559-9404
Absence line	617-559-9390
Psychologist	617-559-9411
CASP	TBD

Does the school have refillable water stations?

The school will have both drinking fountains and refillable water stations. Teachers will provide rules and guidelines regarding the time of day and routines when students can use these refillable stations.

What building security does Cabot have in place?

Security across all schools in the City of Newton is consistent. All external doors will remain locked during school hours. Access is limited to staff and faculty with name tag sensors, and guests who are visually identified before gaining entry. Students will participate in lockdown, shelter in place, and fire drills.

Transition Planning

When can parents and students see the building?

This date will be determined by the city. Once a date is confirmed we will notify parents, students, and the community.

Is the building be completed on time?

The project is on time. We will be in the building to start the 2019-2020 school year. Follow along on <https://cabot.projects.nv5.com>

Is the building project on budget?

Yes <https://cabot.projects.nv5.com>

Do parents need to play a role in helping staff prepare to move?

Not at this time. Teachers are packing the materials they will be bringing to Cabot. The City of Newton will hire professional packers to assist with this process at the end of the year. Teachers will notify parents if additional assistance is needed in their classrooms.

How will the packing process work?

Teachers have already begun purging materials from their classrooms and communal areas of the school. This work will continue throughout the spring. Crates and moving boxes will arrive in the late spring. A professional moving company will move everything from Carr to Cabot.

What are teachers doing to help students with the transition?

The teachers are taking the following steps to support the transition for students:

- Sharing pictures of the new building
- Discussing the move and excitement of the new school
- Introduction of new mascot and colors in June
- Reminding students they will have teachers show them to their classrooms the first week in order for them to not be lost
- The first week of school students will be met in the playground area by their teacher and enter the building together.
- Students will be provided a tour of the building the first week to help students build a comfort level in the building.

How can parents help prepare their children for the transition?

Here are a number of suggestions generated by Cabot faculty and staff.

- Remind your children that their teachers are working hard to ensure the transition is smooth for everyone
- Highlight the new and exciting features Cabot offers – more space, large classrooms, air conditioning, water fountains, new playground, direct access to Cabot Park
- Review your before and after school routines with your child
- Organize playdates during the summer in Cabot Park
- If your children have larger questions or concerns, please raise the issue with your teachers so they are aware of the situation.
- Come visit the school when it is open to the parents and students before the first day

When will we learn more about transportation plans for next year?

A meeting with the PTO will be scheduled on May 23 at 7:30 PM. Information about bus routes, drop-off and pick-up procedures, and much more will be provided. Please note that this meeting is for parents/guardians only — appropriate details will be shared with students separately.

Drop off/Pick up

How will my child know how to find their classroom on the first week of school?

The classroom teachers will meet their classes on the park side of the school. The teachers will line up by grade level and hold up a sign that students can see. Students will then enter the building with their teacher and walk to the classroom together.

What time can I drop off my child?

Students are allowed to enter the building at 8:20. Students that arrive prior to 8:20 will often play in front of the school, but staff supervision does not start until the 8:20 time when the building is open. Prior to 8:20, the school is not responsible for students and no staff are on duty until 8:20.

Where can I drop off my child?

We encourage walking to school and having your child be on the playground plaza closest to the Cabot Park. The students will be entering the building at the doors closest to the playground. The doors will open at 8:20.

Can I come into the building with my child in the morning?

Students should be entering the building with only the classroom teacher the first week of school on their own going forward. Newton Public Schools has established procedures regarding parents coming into the building in the morning. [This letter](#) explains the importance of safety, instruction, and building independence in students as important aspects of a school routine. Due to students being at Carr the past two years the students are very comfortable entering the building on their own.

Where do I pick up my child if they leave at 3:00 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and 12:30 on Tuesday? What age are students allowed to walk home without an adult pick up? Where is the Blue Zone and how will it work?

Please follow [this link](#) to see guidelines for our dismissal plans.

What is the procedure for siblings to be dismissed together?

Older siblings (students in grade 3-5) are permitted to pick up a younger sibling. The older sibling needs to make contact with the younger child's teacher to make sure the dismissal of the K-2 student is safe. Parents need to provide permission through school pass that this is permitted.

Where is CASP pick up?

CASP pick up will be at the cafeteria entrance which is on the North side of the building.

Where can I park as a visitor?

Parents are encouraged to walk to Cabot when they come for a visit. If necessary, parking is available on streets such as Blake, Norwood, East Side Parkway, Clarendon St, Withington Rd., Norwood. A map is available [here](#) with areas for parking.

Where will crossing guards be located in the morning and afternoon?

We have three crossing guards assigned to the school. We encourage students to walk and use crosswalks.

1. Bridges Ave. halfway between Norwood Ave. and Cabot St.
2. Cabot St. near bus loop entrance (close to Blake St.)
3. East Side Parkway near Winchester Rd.

<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/808>

What is safe routes to school and how are they part of the new school?

Safe routes to school supports and encourages safe behaviors to and from school. They promote walking to school and school safety. This is a group of parents supporting school routines to ensure students are safe on the way to and from Cabot.

Transportation

What is the bus policy in terms of payment and registration?

The attached link provides answers to these questions related to bus routes and elementary school bus schedules. We hope students that live within a mile of the school will be inclined to walk each morning.

<https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/812>

Are we continuing to use school pass?

Yes, this accountability system allows the school to monitor student attendance, tardiness, dismissal procedures, students on the bus, and vans.

Can my child ride his bike to school and lock it?

Yes, students in grades 3-5 can ride their bike. The school will have a location to lock your bike on the site. When bike riders are on school grounds they are required to walk their bikes.

Where are the bus stops?

The bus stops are determined by the transportation department in response to ridership. Current bus stops are listed at <https://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Page/807>. Parents can request a stop closer to their house on the bus application, which will be sent out after the end of the school year.

Where does my child who takes a van get dropped off or picked up?

We have van parking close to the Cabot Street entrance. Students that arrive via van will be helped off the van each morning and helped to get on the van at the end of the school day by Aides and/or BT's who are assigned to each child.