



Capitol Hill Cluster School  
*Where Every Child Achieves*  
Peabody | Watkins | Stuart-Hobson | A DC Public School

MScott Berkowitz  
Principal

Natalie Edmonds  
Assistant Principal

La-Tarsha James  
Assistant Principal

Tanisha Montgomery  
Director of Strategy & Logistics

Dear Peabody and Watkins Panthers!

I am so proud and excited for another year of rigorous and joyful learning experiences at Peabody and Watkins! Last spring our early literacy data showed that proficiency rates are above pre-pandemic levels and our 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders continued to report increases in how they feel loved, challenged, and prepared on the Panorama Survey. This year I believe we're ready for even greater academic successes and deeper connections between students, staff, and families. I'm very excited to get started!

**Sneak a Peek of your classroom!** Caregivers and students will be welcomed into the school building to preview their classroom, say hello (briefly) to their teachers, and talk with classmates- new and old. Peabody: August 25 at 9-10am. Watkins: August 24 at 2:30-3:30pm. **Come with your child's classroom supplies to drop in the classroom!**

Need to know details for a successful first day and year:

**All K-5 students will start on August 28.**  
**All PreK students will start on August 31.**

- Peabody: doors open at 8:30, class starts at 8:45. Dismissal between 3:05-3:15.
  - o Peabody families can continue to walk students to the classroom during the first days of school and throughout the year. However, caregivers are not permitted to enter the classroom and should say "good-bye" at the door.
- Watkins: doors open at 8:10, class starts at 8:45. Dismissal at 3:15.
  - o On the first day and every day, caregivers should plan to say goodbye to their child at the front door to the school. Caregivers are not permitted to walk their child to their classroom.

**School meals:** New this year, all **Watkins students will receive free meals** (breakfast, lunch, and after-school snack). Peabody students will continue to receive free breakfast and afterschool snack; however, **lunch will cost \$3.00** for students who do not qualify for free or reduced meals. Applications for Free or Reduced lunch can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/FARM23-24>. Students participating in school meals, who do not qualify for free lunch, must have a MySchoolBucks account, which can be created at [MySchoolBucks.com](https://myschoolbucks.com). Students' meal accounts function as debit accounts. The cost of the meal is deducted when they go through the lunch line.

If your child requires dietary accommodations, please complete and submit their form to [dietary.forms@k12.dc.gov](mailto:dietary.forms@k12.dc.gov) or to your school's cafeteria manager. DCPS Food and Nutrition Services does not require a new form each school year. Please visit <https://dcps.dc.gov/page/dietary-accommodations> for more information.



Peabody Early Childhood Campus 425 C St. NE, Washington, DC 20002 202-698-3277  
Watkins Elementary Campus 420 12<sup>th</sup> St. SE, Washington, DC 20003 202-698-3355  
[www.capitolhillclusterschool.org](http://www.capitolhillclusterschool.org)  
[www.dcps.dc.gov](http://www.dcps.dc.gov)



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Caregivers should not send lunch to school via delivery services, nor should caregivers expect that school staff can heat up lunch. We do not have the capacity to honor those requests.

**Before and aftercare** sign-ups are now open at both schools. See <https://www.capitolhillclusterschool.org/before-after-care> to sign up now.

Whenever possible, administer medications at home. If your child needs **access to medications or medical treatment during school hours**, please complete the following steps:

1. Have your medical provider complete the appropriate forms – [Medication and Treatment Authorization Forms](#), the [Asthma Action Plan](#) and the [Action Plan for Anaphylaxis](#). These forms are available from your school's main office and online: <https://dcps.dc.gov/node/1003562>.
2. **Drop off the medicine and required paperwork to the school nurse.** In the nurse's absence, they can be turned into Ms. Carraway at Watkins and Ms. Brooks at Peabody on Wednesday, August 23 from 9am-2pm. Medications will not be accepted without the appropriate paperwork.
3. **Communicate** your child's medical needs to their homeroom teacher. Please note that your child will not be able to receive medication during the school day (including on field trips) until steps 1 and 2 have been completed.

Unlike previous years, this mailer will not include your child's teacher assignments. All our teachers have been selected for hire and are ready to greet your child on their first day. On the teachers' first day of work, August 21, families will receive a welcome email from their teacher with important and class-specific information.

I hope all our Panthers have a fantastic last few weeks of summer! We are so excited to welcome you back to Peabody and Watkins on August 28! Please stay up to date on all our school events by reading our [weekly Principal's Message](#) on our school website. It is sent to families on Fridays once the school year begins.

This year we are mailing fewer documents home. Instead of paper, all the summer mailer information is posted on our website <https://www.capitolhillclusterschool.org/sy23-24>. Go there to find:

- Staff rosters
- Arrival and dismissal procedures
- Attendance letter from Ms. Roy and DCPS attendance policy
- Supply lists (also included in the paper mailer)
- 2023 Events Flyer (also included in the paper mailer)
- Welcome information from the PTA (also included in the paper mailer)

We will have a fantastic school year together!

In service,  
Principal Berkowitz



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