



**Welcome New AEA Families!**

[www.303pta.org](http://www.303pta.org)

FAQ

Welcome to P.S. 303 Queens, the Academy for Excellence Through the Arts! We are so happy to have you join our school. Here's some information we thought you might find helpful. **ALL INFO IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR.**

### **ABOUT THE SCHOOL**

**What is the school schedule?** School begins at **8:10 a.m.** Dismissal times are staggered, ending at **2:30 p.m.** New pick-up and drop-off locations, depending on the student's grade, will be determined over the summer, based on construction needs. A map will be sent home before school starts in September. You'll also receive your student's classroom assignment in the mail before summer break ends.

**Can my child eat breakfast at school?** A free breakfast is available for every student each morning from 7:30 to 8. Pre-K students must be accompanied by a parent. K-4 students must be dropped off at the front door. Students should come hungry as this is not intended as child care.

**When do the children have lunch and recess?** K-4 students have a 50-minute lunch and recess period each day. These students will eat in the cafeteria in the new building. Schedules by grade will be determined over the summer. In the past, students with the earliest and latest lunch periods have had the opportunity to snack in the afternoon and morning, respectively. After lunch, students are taken outdoors for recess. In inclement weather, they have supervised play (board games/Legos/etc) indoors. Pre-K students eat lunch in the classroom, followed by rest time. They have outdoor recess too.

**Does the school provide lunch? How much does lunch cost? What's on the menu?** School lunch is free for all students. ALL families should fill out paperwork to determine eligibility for lunch programs at the beginning of the school year anyway, because this is important for school funding. The menu can be found online at the link below (select pre-K-8 Lunch Menu) or by downloading the SchoolFood Feed Your Mind app for your phone. <http://www.schoolfoodnyc.org/schoolfood/MenusDailyDisplay.aspx>

**Does AEA offer afterschool care?** Yes! Wingspan Arts offers programs from 2:30 to 6 p.m. daily for an additional fee. Students have playtime and a different specialized class each day chosen from offered selections each semester. <http://wingspanarts.org/afterschool-programs/>

**How do I get school supplies for my child?** This couldn't be easier! We have partnered with 1st Day School Supplies to allow families to quickly order all the supplies requested by your child's teacher. All supplies are EXACTLY what the teacher wants, and they are delivered directly to the school over the summer. This gives your teacher the opportunity to sort and label supplies and to have your child's classroom all set for learning on the first day. This also spares you the task of running all over town filling a supply list. **SUPPLIES MUST BE ORDERED BY JUNE 30.** <http://www.1stdayschoolsupplies.com/>

**How can I communicate with the school?** The main office number is (718) 459-1358. The parent coordinator is Jannie Hackman, and a big part of her job is to assist you. You can email her at [JHackman@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:JHackman@schools.nyc.gov). Teachers are responsive to email, and will share them at the beginning of the year. The school is on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. (<https://www.facebook.com/aea303q/>, [https://www.instagram.com/aea\\_303/](https://www.instagram.com/aea_303/) and <https://twitter.com/aea303q>) Last year's student handbook is online (all subject to change):

<http://www.aea303.com/images/PDFs/AEA-Family-Handbook-2018-2019.pdf>

**When will I be invited to visit my child's classroom?** Open School Night is in early September, and it gives you the opportunity to meet your child's teacher, other parents and view the classroom. There are celebrations, publishing parties and performances throughout the year.

**Does AEA offer daily bus transportation?** No, there is no DOE-provided bus service. Student MetroCards are available if families live farther than 0.5 miles from the school. Contact Ms. Donna in the office about eligibility: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/transportation/bus-eligibility>

**Will my child have homework?** Aside from a few family-based projects and nightly reading, pre-K students do not have regular homework. Beginning in kindergarten, students can expect homework that gradually builds over time.

**How I can I get involved?** Come to PTA meetings! Look for opportunities to volunteer for class parent, bake sales, picture day and more!

## **ABOUT THE PTA**

**How does the PTA raise money?** Our annual direct appeal in the fall is our primary source of funds. We have also held an annual Read-a-thon, a catalog sale, bake sales, restaurant nights, school supply sales, school picture sales, etc. And more fun fundraising events are in the works!

**How do I join the PTA?** All parents/guardians of P.S. 303Q students are automatically members of the PTA. A voluntary \$25 dues donation is requested at the start of the year to cover administration costs.

**When are PTA meetings held?** On the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the school. Babysitting is always provided.

**What does the PTA do?** Our first goal as a PTA is to serve as a welcoming community for all AEA families. We always want your input and your questions. Second, the PTA of AEA supports and promotes the staff's vision of our school. Due to its small size, the school receives limited government funding. The PTA helps ensure that all students receive the supplementary programs that make our school so special. The PTA raises money to provide additional math books and online reading tools. The PTA also pays for students to go on field trips to see artists in action and to bring extra arts educators into the classroom. We help provide needed supplies for school performances. We coordinate teacher appreciation efforts for our outstanding staff. Our school depends on us, and we need **your** help!

**How do I stay in touch with the PTA?** The PTA can be reached at [303pta@gmail.com](mailto:303pta@gmail.com). You can also sign up to receive notifications when the PTA website is updated ([www.303pta.org](http://www.303pta.org)). The PTA has a closed Facebook group as well (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PTAofAEA303/>); you will be asked a few questions when you request to join to ensure your connection to AEA.