

General Information

School Start/End Times:

- The school day begins at 8:55 AM and students should arrive on campus no earlier than 8:35AM.
- One day per month is a SIP Day. On these designated days, dismissal is at 12:35 PM and kindergarten student do not come.
- All students must be picked up by 3:45PM on a regular basis. We do not have any staff to supervise them after 3:45pm regularly. Please make sure to be on time or make alternate arrangements if needed.
- We will no longer allow any dismissal changes after 3:00pm.
- We will be limiting pick up between the 3:15pm and 3:30pm. The office staff is busy preparing for dismissal and this creates an unnecessary disruption. Only emergencies will be allowed.

Class Assignments:

Class Assignments will be posted on 8/6 at 4:00pm out front of doors as well as online on the HAC. If you cannot access this, please let us know and we can look it up for you.

First Day of School:

The first day of school is Wednesday, August 14, 2019. This year's school calendar is online at psd202.org. The first day of school will be a half day and kindergarten students will not be in attendance. Please do not worry if students do not yet know their teacher. We will help every child make it to class safely.

School Supplies:

Please feel free to drop off any school supplies at the Meet the Teacher Day, Tuesday, August 13th from 12:00pm-1:15pm. Otherwise, you may bring these the first day of school.

Transportation:

Bus route information will be available on HAC and online at www.psd202.org shortly. Please know that the start of each school year brings with it the potential for some overcrowding on buses. During the first few weeks of school, rider counts fluctuate as students and parents explore their various methods of transportation. We ask for your patience as bus drivers and school administrators take daily head counts of high-volume routes and adjustments are made to route assignments. Please allow at least 10-15 minutes for a late bus before calling your school.

Bus Rider Reminders:

BUS STOP TIMES: Your child's route will be assigned an approximate pick-up and drop-off time. This time may change. Times can vary during the first week and usually a routine is established after the first two weeks.

BUS STOP: Show your child where the bus stop is and how to walk home from the bus stop from all possible directions to avoid confusion.

WRONG BUS: Teach your child to tell the bus driver if they believe they are on the wrong bus. Have a conversation about what to do if they get off at the wrong stop or if someone is not home when they arrive. Make sure your child knows they should walk directly home after school unless an alternate plan was discussed. Parents may become worried if children simply stop to play at a neighbor's house on their way home from the bus stop without letting parents know in advance.

RIDING ANOTHER BUS: Students are only allowed to ride their assigned bus. Friends riding with friends on an unassigned bus will not be allowed.

ITEMS NOT ALLOWED ON THE BUS: Have a conversation with your child about making good choices about what can be brought on the bus. Hazardous materials of any kind will not be allowed, and student discipline will occur.

What's New in 2019-2020?

Second Step:

Some of our new changes include adoption of a school-wide social skills program called Second Step. This will be taught to all students every Tuesday. Second Step is a social and emotional learning program. The research is clear that the early elementary years are the ideal time to teach and nurture social/emotional competence as well as develop their foundational learning skills.

Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures:

AM: Much of the am drop off will stay the same. We still highly encourage you to have your child ready to exit. As soon as the line stops, we want children to exit the car on the right side right away! Cars will no longer be allowed to park in the parking spots nearest to the car rider line. This created an unsafe situation as children were crossing right in front of the cars in line. If you need to accompany your child in, you will need to go through the car rider line and then park in the new visitors' spots located near the staff parking lot. Also, police will now be closely monitoring for any parents that choose to drop their child off in the cross walk or directly on Budler. This is a traffic violation and tickets may be issued. You must either pull onto a side road or use the car rider line.

PM: We will be using a new automated drive line pick up system to ensure student safety at dismissal time for our car pick up students. This program is called pikmykid.org. While this program may not be up and running on day one (teachers will need to be trained), the new procedures will start almost immediately. Some changes associated with this include the addition of another lane in the front area (now there will be three lanes). The addition of a kindergarten only lane for PM dismissal that will be located near the teacher parking lot (K only cars will enter through the back entrance located in the O's). Also, students will no longer be allowed to wait outside for pick up. They will be dismissed from classrooms located inside near the B doors. More detailed information will be sent shortly as well as delivered at Meet the Teacher Day. If you plan on dropping off or picking your child up regularly, please make every attempt to attend this event to get the new information.

Breakfast/Lunch/Recess:

We will continue to serve breakfast in the classroom for the 2019-2020 school year. Breakfast will be served in the classroom from 8:40 AM – 9:00 AM. Students who arrive in the classroom after that time may not be able to participate in breakfast in the classroom. Students in most grade levels will return to eat first and play second. While the change last year ran well, it just became too difficult to properly clean the cafeteria after each grades lunch. We have allotted additional cleaning time between lunches as well as re-vamped our rules/expectations for cafeteria and recess behavior. We want this to be a calm but enjoyable environment.

Student Data Tracking/Portfolios:

We want our students to begin taking ownership for their learning on a much larger scale this school year. In order to do that, we are going to highly encourage students to begin tracking their own progress regularly. Students should know where they stand academically and not have to wait until report card time to see where they are. This will be done on daily exit assessments, weekly common assessments and quarterly benchmark tests. What does this look like in action? In kindergarten, it could look like a A-Z document that shows you what letters they know/don't know yet. In 3-5, it might be the self-tracking of a mini quiz at the end of a day's lesson. We highly encourage you to ask your child often how they are doing.

Parent/Student Advisory Committee:

In mid-September, I would like to form a Parent/Student Advisory committee consisting of both parents and students from 3-5 grade. I want to be able to speak directly to students and parents and hear what they like/dislike about things we are doing. The topics will range, and we will meet monthly after school. More information to come on this but let me know if you (and your child) are interested.

Attendance:

We have formed an attendance intervention committee this year to help improve the overall attendance of our students. While we know emergencies arise, it is important that students are at school on time daily. This attendance committee will review attendance data regularly, provide interventions and work with Will County in the event that a court summons needs to be submitted. Please know that we will do everything possible to help you (and your child) to arrive on time. Our goal is that students have less than 2 days out/tardy per quarter.

Quarterly Achievement/Assemblies:

We would like to provide these day/night assemblies in order to reward our students for all their hard work daily. While the details are to be ironed out by teachers once they return, some awards could include the "Red Hot" Award for tremendous growth on I-Ready, monthly ROAR Students, Kindness and Compassion Awards, Almost Perfect Attendance (2 days or less). Our students and staff are amazing, and we want them to know it!

PTA Fundraisers:

We are using a new vendor for fundraising this year and a new format as well. In the past, we have sold cookie dough, wrapping paper, candy and even popcorn. This year, we have decided to think differently, and we have chosen the STEP IT UP "Day of Awesomeness" as our major fundraiser. Rather than buying junk you don't need; all you need to do is make a one-time donation online and encourage friends and family to do the same. Your participation will allow your child to go to the DAY of AWESOMENESS EVENT! This fundraiser will start in early August. If we are highly successful, we hope to only have ONE major fundraiser. Otherwise, we will have a spring fundraiser as well. Please know that all monies raised go to purchasing teacher supplies, improved technology, our electronic pick up system and intervention materials. All students benefit directly from these funds. (See attached flyer).

Finally, we would like to welcome the following new certified staff to our campus:

Ms. Hall and Ms. Zwart (Social Worker), Ms. Young (Intervention), Ms. Yeung (5th Grade), Ms. Zurita (Intensive), Ms. Randolph, Ms. Franczek, and Ms. Finlay (SPED), Ms. Bell (3rd Grade) and Ms. Ristucci (ESL support). *We are still finalizing the classified staff and we will introduce them shortly. We will miss Ms. Fitzgerald, Ms. Reddington, Ms. Lund and Ms. Milosovich as they have moved on.

What stays the same?

- Class Dojo communication
- Twitter/Facebook/Instagram
- Daily Fluency (1 min. reads and Spiral Review HW)
- After school clubs including STEM, Young Rembrandts, YMCA, and Chess Club

Please have a relaxing last few weeks with your children and we look forward to seeing you all at Meet the Teacher Day on August 13th. Remember, the first day of school is **Wednesday, August 14th** for 1-5.

Sincerely, Mr. Winters

Our "DAY OF AWESOMENESS" fundraiser will start on 8/19. Start getting friends and families emails together now so you are well prepared. All those that participate will be invited to the DAY OF AWESOMENESS on Friday, Sept. 20th. See sample flyers below:



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PTA AND OUR SCHOOL SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO DO WONDERFUL THINGS FOR AND WITH KIDS!

MORE INFORMATION TO COME SHORTLY