



SOUTHWEST ELEMENTARY

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Be the Change You Want to See

¡Sé el cambio que quieres ver!

Nick Rotosky, Principal • Torrey Flores, Assistant Principal • Ryan Fuga, Assistant Principal



Important 2023-2024 Back to School Information

We hope everyone is enjoying the summer break. Southwest staff are busy planning for the return of staff and students and are excited about the upcoming school year!

Elementary School Hours

All elementary schools in DPS are “early start” schools. Carpool services will be from 7:15-7:40am.

Announcements will begin at 7:40am. Students will be late/tardy if they arrive after 7:45am and must be escorted to the front office and signed in by an adult. Dismissal will be from 2:15-2:30pm.

Please arrive for carpool pick-up no later than 2:30pm each day. Early checkout will end at 1:45pm.

Parent Portal

Parent Portal is the online system DPS uses for contact information and transportation requests.

Each year, families need to confirm or update their address, phone number, and emergency contacts. In addition, bus transportation must be requested yearly. Families also use the portal to sign off on the

DPS parent handbook, complete free-and-reduced lunch applications, update immunization

information and more. In addition, families will be able to access a child’s grades and test scores

through Parent Portal. New families will [set up their Parent Portal account](#) using the email address

provided at registration. (See [video instructions for how to set up an account.](#)) Returning DPS

families can access the portal anytime to make changes as needed.

Transportation Update *NEW or transportation changes*

We recommend going to the “returning students registration” in your Parent Portal to update your

transportation needs by Thursday, August 10th especially if your child needs bus transportation for the

start of the school year. Requests put in after August 10th cannot be guaranteed during the first 10 days of

school. Bus routes will be available at Open House/Orientation on Aug 24th and will be sent out in the

principal’s weekly update. Please note that approved transfer students do not qualify for transportation.

Kindergarten Readiness/Summer Bridge Camp

All incoming Kindergarten students are scheduled to attend our FREE Kindergarten Readiness/Summer Bridge Camp at Southwest August 8th-10th from 7:30-11:30am. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. We currently have over 80 students registered to attend! If you need to register an incoming Kindergarten student, check your email for the link or call Southwest at 919-560-3972 to get signed up.

Welcome Letters to Families

Teachers will prepare and send letters to their families the week of August 7th-11th through Class Dojo. Kindergarten class assignments will be made after our Summer Bridge Camp. If you have not received a letter by Monday, August 14th, call Southwest at 919-560-3972 for your student's class assignment.

Popsicles with the Principals

New families to Southwest are invited to "Popsicles with the Principals" on Tuesday, August 22nd from 12:00-1:00pm. This includes all Kindergarten families and any new families in other grade levels. Spend time with administration and meet PTA representatives and other new families. We hope to see you there!

Open House and Orientation

Our Open House/Orientation will be held on Thursday, August 24th. Come to Southwest for a "meet and greet" with your child's teacher during the first 15 minutes of each session. Then, stay to learn about the classroom expectations, content curriculum, and ways to help your child be successful during the school year during the last 45 minutes. There will be two session options - One during the day from 12:00-1:00pm and another in the late afternoon from 5:00-6:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Kindergarten Staggered Entry

DPS will continue to use a staggered entry process for incoming Kindergarten students. Between August 28th-30th. Kindergarten students will attend one assigned day with their class. Your teacher will contact you to schedule the day. During your staggered entry day, assigned Kindergarten students will stay at Southwest for a full day and dismiss with the school at 2:15pm. After attending the staggered entry day, your child will not return to school again until Thursday, August 31st. This staggered entry approach provides us the opportunity to get to know your child in a smaller group setting and support their transition to the school.

ClassDojo

ClassDojo is the school-wide communication tool for Southwest Elementary and can be downloaded as an app on your phone for free! Through ClassDojo, you will receive all communication from the school, administration, and your teacher(s). ClassDojo is also used to encourage positive behavior and share class photos and videos! Codes will be provided to Kindergarten families during Summer Bridge Camp. Everyone should confirm that you are connected to your child's teacher at Open House/Orientation.

Student Supplies

We are excited to announce that we are streamlining supplies again for the 2023-24 school year. This year, families only need to provide a bookbag and a pair of headphones for each child! All other supplies will be provided! (Technology has given students access to personalized learning that helps further their education. However, without headphones, students can hear the personalized instruction of every student. As you can imagine, this can be very distracting. We recommend buying two pairs allowing students to have a backup pair at home, if needed.)

Teachers may provide a "wish list" for optional items at the beginning of the year. Wish list items may include items such as dry erase markers, multi-color card stock/paper, tissue, paper towels, Ziplock bags, etc. Please note that these are great ways to support your child's classroom, but they are not required.

Title I Annual Open Meeting

Our Annual Title I Open Meeting will be held Thursday, August 24th in the media center at 1:15pm. This open meeting discusses what it means to be a Title I school and parent involvement. The session is optional, and information will be available to families after the session.

PTA

Our PTA is an active group of parents and teachers working together to meet the needs of our students. You can [join the PTA](#) for only \$6. We hope you will consider becoming a member of the Southwest PTA and discovering how you can become involved in our school community.