



Tropical Elementary School
www.tropicalelementary.net

1500 SW 66th Avenue, Plantation, FL 33317
www.tropicalelementary.my-pta.org



Principal:
Erik Anderson

Assistant Principal
Teresita Miranda

PTA President
Michelle Axelson

August 14, 2018

Mark Your Calendars

August 14th

Kindergarten & New Student Orientation - 12:15 p.m.
PreK - 2nd Grade "Meet Your Teacher" 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.
3rd - 5th Grade "Meet Your Teacher" - 2:00 - 2:30 p.m.

August 15th

First Day of School

August 22nd

Open House for 3rd - 5th Grade - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

September 5th

Open House for PreK - 2nd Grade - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Parent and Visitor Procedures at Tropical Elementary

Maintaining a safe campus is our priority here at Tropical. New guidelines and policies are being implemented districtwide in an effort to better secure our campus. The District has mandated that once the school day begins, all perimeter gates must be locked. Please help us to keep our campus safe by adhering to the following expectations for arrival, dismissal and access to the campus.

- Schools are required to supervise 30 minutes prior to the start of the day. Therefore, no student may be on campus until 7:55 a.m.
- The gates on the south side of the school car loop will open just before 7:55 a.m. for staff arrival. Parents should not arrive or drop off students until 7:55 a.m. when a staff member will be monitoring the area. At 8:25 a.m., the gates will be locked.
- Gates will reopen for dismissal approximately ten minutes before 2:25 p.m. They will be locked immediately following dismissal.
- All visitors must wear a school issued I.D. while on school property. You may utilize your volunteer badge or your must have your driver's license and check in to the STAR system in the front office.
- Visitors may only enter the school if they have a scheduled appointment or for early dismissal. School Board Policy states that students may not be dismissed 30 minutes prior to dismissal (1:55 p.m.)

Welcome Back!

We are excited for the start of the 2018-2019 school year. Our teachers have invested time in professional learning and they are excited to implement what they have learned. Please note that there are enhanced safety and security changes that will need your attention. Please read this Tropical Times issue as it contains some of those changes. We will review them with your child in school and with you at Open House.

First Days of School Procedures

On the first day of school, all parents are invited to escort their child to the classroom door between 7:55 and 8:25 a.m. At 8:25 a.m., parents are asked to depart the campus or attend our Boo Hoo Breakfast Coffee and Kleenex in the cafeteria. PreK and Kindergarten parents may continue this procedure on Thursday and Friday. Monday, August 20th, is Kindergarten Independence Day (wear red, white & blue). Parents will not be allowed to walk their children to their classrooms.

8:25 is Late!

The instructional day begins promptly at 8:25 a.m. Your child will be marked tardy if they are not in their classroom by 8:25 a.m. Please refer to the Student Handbook and the Tardy Policy in the first day packet for further information regarding attendance and early dismissal procedures.

Emergency Preparedness

Teaching children what to do in the event of different types of emergencies has always been embedded in your child's instruction. We conduct fire drills monthly and tornado drills two times per year. This year we will be conducting "code red" lock down drills every month. In the event of an actual emergency, Tropical will communicate with the school community as soon as feasibly possible using Parentlink. To ensure that you can receive this timely communication, be sure that you keep your contact information up to date with the school. We highly suggest you download and use the BCPS App.

Meet our Campus School Resource Officer (SRO)

The City of Plantation, in collaboration with Broward County Schools, has provided Tropical with a School Resource Officer five days a week to assist with campus security as well as to build positive relationships with our students. Officer Sorada Toman has been assigned to our school. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and thank her for her service to our school and community.

IMPORTANT ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES AND REMINDERS

We would like to take this opportunity to offer some helpful tips with regards to our arrival/dismissal procedures. With many years of input, experience and knowledge to ensure a smooth arrival and dismissal process, we thank you in advance to take a few moments to review the following and for your cooperation.

Arrival Times: Between 7:55 a.m. and 8:25 a.m. We strongly encourage students to arrive as early as possible during this time. **Breakfast is available upon arrival to the cafeteria from 7:55 a.m. and BEFORE 8:10 a.m.** Please note: **No students may be on campus prior to 7:55 a.m.** because there is no supervision prior to then, **unless you register for Tropical Child Care, Before School Care Program, (6:55 a.m.-7:55 a.m.)** where the entrance is only through the front office. **Details are available ONLINE** for both registration and payment information at tropicalelementary.net.

The Tardy Bell Rings at 8:25 a.m. at which time **all gates and doors are locked**, and **access to the school is only available through the front office.** All students not in their classrooms by that time will receive a “Tardy” and **must get a pass in the office.** (6 tardies will result in a detention. Please refer to the Tardy Policy for more information.)

ARRIVAL: All students may utilize **either** the West (front office) **or** South-Side (park side) car loop or sidewalks. **SOUTH SIDE CAR LOOP** students are able to access **ALL classroom waiting areas and the Cafeteria** (breakfast available up to 8:10 a.m.) with **less road congestion offering two walking entrances into the school.** **There are covered walkways from the south-side car loop to all areas of the school.** We are highly encouraging the use of South Side loop, especially during rainy day arrivals. This also allows for easier traffic flow and drier access for your students to their classroom. Tardies may be excused for a few extra minutes during rainy day arrival, and until the student gates are closed, after which, entry will only be through the front office.

Early Dismissal: Parents who occasionally need to pick up their children, prior to 2:25 p.m. must sign them out through the front office (please have ID ready). **School Board Policy 5.5 states that, “NO students shall be released within the final 30 minutes of the school day** (unless the principal/designee determines it is an emergency)”. Please make every effort to schedule appointments outside school hours.

DISMISSAL: **Student dismissal is at 2:25 p.m. for all students.** We begin to load the private aftercare vans and school buses prior to that, but all students **are not dismissed until 2:25 p.m.** If a student should miss their bus, the parents or designee will be contacted for alternative transportation. **Car Riders:** Please **clearly** display the dashboard nametags during **every** dismissal. We encourage you to please **NOT** arrive prior to the bell at dismissal time **since this guarantees and causes a backup in traffic and congestion preventing a quick Aftercare Van and School Bus departure.** Arriving a few minutes after 2:25 p.m. allows the traffic to move along easily. In the event of arriving earlier than the bell, **PLEASE ensure to abide by ALL TRAFFIC RULES and ensure that all entrances and exits to school property are clear, to allow for traffic flow.** You will notice how there are organized lines and waiting protocols to allow for a quick dismissal. **PLEASE DO NOT PASS INTO THE OPPOSITE LANE OF TRAFFIC TO BYPASS WAITING LINES.** There are walking students and parents, and the busses and vans will be leaving. **Plantation Police are watching and will issue citations for dangerous driving.**

Dismissal from the WEST CAR LOOP (front of school) is the pick-up area for **Pre-K, Kindergarten and First Grade students and students who carpool with them.**

MAJOR SAFETY CONCERN: Parents, please do not walk through the car pick up lanes. Do NOT pass other cars loading their students in the front loop, DO not attempt to stop and load your students in the outside lane of the South Car Loop, students WILL NOT be released as this is a major safety concern. Sidewalks should be utilized. We will only release “walking” children on the sidewalk.

At approximately 2:40 p.m., after there are no more cars in the car loop, the gates will be locked. Any remaining students from the south side car loop will be walked through school to the front office for supervision. Parents will need to sign their child out in the office as Late Dismissal.

CROSSING GUARDS: When a crossing guard is in the middle of the intersection at 16th St. and 66th Ave. all cars must stop. When a crossing guard is only stopping cars at a portion of the intersection, some lanes may carefully continue to utilize the other sections of the intersection. **MAJOR SAFETY CONCERNS: DO NOT UTILIZE THE PARKING LOTS, STREET, OR BUS LOOP AS DROP OFF AREAS.** Please use our established car loops. Be courteous; use turn signals, do not park on neighbors’ lawns and do not park your car hanging over the road or sidewalk because it blocks pedestrians.

Helpful hints to make the car rider arrival and dismissal process as safe and smooth as possible:

- Children are everywhere; so be alert and keep your eyes scanning.
- Obey the law and be a courteous driver. Do not drive on the wrong side of the road.
- While in the car loop, always pull as far forward as possible to load and unload students.
- Do not use cell phones while in the car loops.
- There will be no parent teacher conversations or conferences in the car loops.
- In order to expedite the morning drop-off process, please have your child completely ready (backpack/lunch bag in hand) to exit the car before you pull into the car loop.
- Do not get out of your car. Teach your child to independently get out of the passenger side of the car.
- Never allow your child to cross the car or bus loops. Please teach by example and utilize the sidewalks and crosswalks. This is one of our major safety concerns.

Arrival/Dismissal Vocabulary/Terminology

Walker: Any student who walks off campus (even though they may get in a car down out in the swale).

Car Rider: Any student who boards a car in one of our established car loops.

Rainy Day Dismissal: Dismissal during a light rain will proceed as usual except at a slower pace.

Hazardous/Severe Weather Dismissal: Very severe weather (i.e. lightning, tornado, very heavy rain, etc.) at dismissal, walkers and car riders will be walk to area but remain inside the building until it has been determined that such severe weather has passed. Please be ready to follow any instructions to dismiss through another area of the school as determined by the weather conditions and guidance of staff.

Your assistance in discussing and following these procedures to safeguard students