



# SILVER PALMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## General Information for the 2018/2019 School Year



### Message from the Principal

Silver Palms Elementary is a sensational neighborhood school with a dedicated and caring staff and community.

*The mission of the school is to involve and inspire the entire school community to:*

- Provide a secure and quality educational experience through a variety of engaging, student-centered opportunities.
- Challenge students to develop the competitive, collaborative, and communicative skills needed in the 21st century's world of work.
- Develop citizens able to be responsible in an ever-changing technological, demanding, diverse, and global society.

*It, along with other school information, is posted at our school's web site at <http://silverpalms.browardschools.com/>*

We encourage parents to get involved in their children's education. Make sure that you post the school calendar and keep track of the dates when Interim Reports and Report Cards are issued. Communicate with the teachers also. The school's telephone number is 754.323.7450. All school personnel can also be reached by e-mail. Type the person's first name followed by a period, the person's last name followed by the "@" sign, followed by "browardschools.com".

Below, please find a listing of personnel that is ready to assist you.

- Assistant Principal: Ms. Arias
- Guidance Counselor: Mrs. Simmonds
- Reading Specialist: Ms. Williams
- Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Specialist:  
Mrs. Vasquez-Peralta
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)  
Contact Person: Ms. Williams
- Volunteer Liaison: Mrs. Simmonds
- Cafeteria Manager: Luz Benitez

We also have bilingual (Spanish) staff members in the main office or on the staff to assist parents who are limited in their English proficiency. Please ask for assistance.

Again, I urge you to take an active role in your children's education. Attend School Advisory Council (SAC) and School Advisory Forum (SAF) meetings, join the Parent/Teacher Association (PTA), and volunteer as much as you can. I look forward to working with all of you during the coming school year.

Proud Principal,  
*Mrs. Shearer*

### Silver Palms is Special!

The school colors are teal and silver and the mascot is the dolphin. We offer kindergarten through fifth grades plus a Preschool program, have a population of approximately 600 students, and celebrate our diversity.

### Specific School Information

**School Year:** August 15, 2018 – June 4, 2019

**School Hours:** 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**First bell rings at 7:55 a.m.**

### Meals: Breakfast - Free

Lunch, \$2.00 -- Reduced, \$0.40

Milk or bottled water, \$0.50

Ice Cream, sold on Wednesdays, \$0.65

Adult Breakfast, \$1.80 & Adult Lunch, \$2.75

Breakfast is served from 7:30 to 7:55 a.m. However, students should arrive no later than 7:45 a.m. This allows them time to travel to the cafeteria, go through the food line, eat for 10 minutes, and travel to class which begins at 8:00 a.m. **SHARP.**

Students may purchase a hot meal and special items for lunch. Parents can pay in advance for their children's meals. Send the money in an envelope to the teacher or leave it at the security desk. (Please make sure that the student's name and cafeteria number are listed on the envelope or check.) You can also pay online at [www.myschoolapps.com](http://www.myschoolapps.com). Students may also bring a lunch box from home and can purchase milk, water, and/or ice cream, etc. They have 30 minutes for lunch.

Applications for free and reduced meals are available online at [www.myschoolapps.com](http://www.myschoolapps.com). Students who were enrolled in a Broward County public school and were eligible during the past school year have a grace period for two months in the beginning of school year. For more information contact 754.321.0250.

**Transportation:** Students who live over two miles from the school are eligible for school bus transportation. Parents will automatically receive a card in the mail, approximately one week before the first day of school, informing them of the location and times of pickup and drop-off.

**Arrival/Dismissal:** The drop-off and pickup area is in the front of the school off 155th Avenue. Supervision of students begins at 7:30 a.m., and they must arrive by 7:55 a.m., although 7:45 a.m. is preferred, in order to make it to class on time. Parking is extremely limited and parents are advised to drop off their children. Staff members and student-patrols will assist them in getting to the right classrooms. The south area off Northwest 155th Avenue is for buses and private day-care vans. These must have an area without cars parking and blocking their drop-off lane. Please, do not double park and block other cars. At dismissal, please leave the main entrance doors clear. Safety and courtesy are a priority!

**Early Dismissal:** Parents are asked to avoid making appointments for their children prior to 2:30 p.m. Students cannot be dismissed between 1:30 and 2:00 p.m. unless due to an extreme emergency since the main office staff might not be able to comply in time and because teachers often give last-minute instructions.

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**Bicycle Riders:** To comply with Florida law, all bicycle riders must wear safety helmets. They are also required to park their bicycles in one of the three secured bicycle compounds that are located on the southeast, southwest, and northwest corners of the school. These compounds are locked between 8:15 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. Students are also asked to lock their bicycles for added security.

**Unified Dress Code:** The school has a unified dress code determined by a parent and staff vote. It surpasses the dress code that is mandatory for the school district and helps to maintain academic focus and avoids fashion competition among students. The main office provides the list that offers a variety of styles and colors for clothing items. Parents can request a waiver but this has to be submitted within the first 10 days of school or within 10 days of a new registration. The PTA also sells Silver Palms T-shirts. The main office has order forms.

**Classes:** Students receive instruction in core curriculum subjects, such as reading, language arts, writing, mathematics, social studies, and science. However, they also attend one "special" class per day for 30 minutes. It can be Art, Music, or Physical Education. Teachers incorporate technology into the curricula and provide the students with 30 minutes of physical activity daily.

**Supplies:** Each grade level provides an optional supply list. Additional items might be suggested once school begins. However, teachers will allow students enough time to purchase any other recommended materials.

**Attendance:** Make sure that your children attend school daily. Every day missed can jeopardize a student's progress. Please call 754.323.7452 within 48 hours to excuse an absence. However, the School Board policy states that a pattern of non-attendance is established when accumulated time for tardiness, early sign-outs, or absences (excused or unexcused) total five days (30 hours) in a marking period or quarter. If a pattern of non-attendance is determined, a statement provided by the parents explaining such absences must be on file at the school, and the principal may request documentation from a physician or public health unit. The Broward Truancy Intervention Program monitors attendance and automatically sends notices to parents. Please teach your children to be punctual, also. This is a trait (and habit) that will serve them well in the world of work.

**Before and After School Care:** 6:30 - 7:30 a.m. and 2:00 - 6:00 p.m., respectively. Contact the main office if interested.

### Early Release and Employee Planning Days

On Early Release Days, teachers are able to use the time to plan instruction along with colleagues or prepare report cards. Students are dismissed at noon. After School Care is offered on these days and also begins at noon.

On Employee Planning Days, teachers attend workshops. Students do not attend school. Please check the school calendar for the dates.

### School Improvement Plan (SIP)

The school's SIP has goals for Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science. It is a comprehensive and ambitious plan that guides the school's curricular activities in order to reach the school's mission. It is the strategic plan of the school. Check the school's newsletter and marquee for meeting dates and times of the SAC/SAF that assist in the development of this plan. Meetings are "open" to the community members.

### Volunteer Program

In August or September, the school's volunteer liaison/s and the PTA's volunteer coordinator will schedule an orientation meeting. However, if you are unable to attend and are interested, please look for the "Volunteering Opportunities" form in the students' first-week packet, contact Mrs. Simmonds (through the main office), or ask for the PTA's volunteer coordinator for information. The school offers many different programs in which volunteers can get involved. We welcome them! Register to volunteer at: [www.getinvolvedineducation.com](http://www.getinvolvedineducation.com).

### School Safety

For your children's security, all visitors must sign-in, receive a visitor's tag, and sign-out at the information/security desk located in the main hallway. Side doors will be locked at 8:00 a.m., and all visitors must then enter the building through the main entrance.

The school district has security codes that were modeled similarly to the national plan. The students and staff practice procedures. For security and safety reasons, parents will not be allowed to enter the building when a code is in effect. They may contact the school by telephone. However, with certain codes, the school may be evacuated. Signs will be posted. The rally point for parents will be at TownGate Park (located at 901 Northwest 155th Avenue).

### Medication Policy

Florida State Law mandates that school personnel not administer or dispense medication to any student without the written consent of the parent and a completed treatment plan signed by a licensed physician. The student cannot transport the medication. The parent must deliver it to the school in its original container, and it must be properly labeled with pertinent information. If your child requires any medication (including items, such as antacids, pain relievers, cough drops, antibacterial ointments, etc.), please request an "Authorization for Medication/Treatment" form, from the main office.

