

Panther Press

Sawgrass Elementary

August 2019

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Sawgrass Families,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! I hope all of you enjoyed your summer and spent quality time with friends and family. The Sawgrass Staff and I are eagerly awaiting your return and are preparing for a great upcoming school year. I am sending you this correspondence in preparation for the opening of school with the goal of helping your family transition back-to-school smoothly. Our highest priority is the safety and security of our children. We continue to actively monitor our school to ensure that Sawgrass is as safe as possible. The safety and security of our school is significantly enhanced with the daily presence of Officer Hodges of the Sunrise Police Department and our new Campus Monitors. With safety at the forefront, we have several procedures associated with arrival, dismissal and other school procedures which are described in this newsletter. I hope you find the newsletter helpful in navigating these procedures and understanding what you can expect as we start the school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to bring them to my attention or the attention of school staff. Your feedback and voice are critical to our continued improvement.

In Service,

Stephen DeCotis,
Principal

School Hours



Front gate opens at 7:20 AM. **There is no supervision before 7:20 AM. Please do not leave your child unattended.** Students are expected to be in their seats at 8 AM. Students arriving after the 8 AM bell will be considered tardy. Regular dismissal is at 2:00 PM for all students.

Parents interested in providing input into the performance evaluations of Sawgrass Elementary instructional and/or administrative employee evaluations may contact our office at (754)322-8500 by April 12, 2020.

Reminders

School Uniform / ID Policy

Sawgrass Elementary has a Mandatory School Unified Dress Code. All students attending Sawgrass must adhere to this unified dress policy. Fridays are “Fun Fridays” and uniforms are optional in lieu of the school-wide theme (e.g. jeans day, favorite sports jersey, etc.). Backless and open-toe shoes for students in grades K-5 are not allowed. All students are required to wear a student ID throughout the day. Repeated violations of the school’s uniform policy may result in progressive discipline.

Consequences for not adhering to the unified dress code policy are:

- 1st Offense – Warning Letter
- 2nd Offense – Parent contact for change of clothes
- 3rd Offense- School specific consequence
- 4th Offense – Internal Suspension

Shirt Colors: White, Red, Hunter Green and Sawgrass T-shirts + PTA Spirit T-shirts

Bottoms: Navy Blue, Khaki

Emergency Drills

We will be conducting regular safety drills throughout the year including:

- Lockdown Drills – Monthly
- Fire Drills – Monthly
- Tornado Drills – 2 per year
- Evacuation Drill - yearly

Visiting Our Campus

All visitors must enter campus through the single point entry located in our front office. Visitors must have a photo ID (Driver’s License) in order to be processed through our STAR system. If you do not have a photo ID, you will not be permitted to enter our campus. We ask that you are patient with our staff as the check-in process will take a few minutes to complete.

First Day of School

All students may be escorted to class by a parent on the first day of school. Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st Grade students may be escorted by a parent to the classroom or cafeteria until Thursday Aug. 16th. Students in grades 2nd – 5th will independently walk to class from the front gates after the first day. Starting Friday Aug. 16 ALL students must enter the front gates independently. Staff will be at the gate to aid students needing assistance.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

All students will enter through the front double white gate under the supervision of school personnel. Students will transition to their respective hallways where books will be supplied for morning reading until teachers open the classroom doors at 7:55 AM. School staff will be present in each hallway to monitor the students in the hallways. If your son or daughter has to eat breakfast, they have to report to the cafeteria as soon as they arrive at school. The breakfast service ends at 7:55 AM.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

STUDENT BICYCLES AND WALKING ALONE

- Students who walk or bike will be guided to the front of the school by teachers
- Students are expected to pick up the bicycles immediately at 2 PM from the bike rack, walk the bike off campus, and wear a helmet
- All these students will leave campus immediately following dismissal in order to make sure crossing guards are present.

CAR POOL LANE

Every student will receive new dismissal card/signs to display in your dashboard during pick-up. We ask that you write your child's first and last name, grade level and teacher's name using a dark marker.

- Display the dismissal card/sign in your dashboard through the car pick-up loop daily.
- If you do not have a dismissal card/sign, staff will ask you to park and come into the office to present your ID and sign your child out.
- We will have additional blank dismissal card/signs in the car loop lane this week only.

PARENT WALK-UP PICK-UP (outside front gate in person) 2:00PM-2:05PM.

- Teachers will escort students to the appropriate grade level poles identified by signage (Grade 1, Grade 2 etc.).
- When physically picking up your child please present your dismissal card to the teacher and they will dismiss your child to you. If you do not have your Sawgrass issued dismissal card, we will need to go to the office and present your ID.
- If you are unable to pick up your child by 2:05 PM, your child will join the car-pool dismissal.
- After 2:05PM please plan to stay in your car and pick your child up in the car-pool lane.

EMERGENCY DISMISSAL / SAME DAY DISMISSAL CHANGES

- All dismissal changes must be received in writing (via email to sawgrassdismissal@browardschools.com along with a picture of your driver's license).
- Requests must be received by 1:00 p.m. to ensure receipt of your request. If you do not receive a reply to the email, please call the school to confirm.



Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! There will be several events happening around campus throughout the year. Each month you will receive a list of upcoming events. Below you will find the events happening at Sawgrass in August 2019.

Event	Date & Time	Location
Sneak-A-Peek / Meet Your Teacher	Tuesday, August 13 from 9AM to 10 AM	All classrooms -meet the teacher, drop off supplies, and tour the classroom / campus. (see more info. below)
First Day of School	Wednesday, August 14 th	All Broward Schools
Open House - Primary Grades	Wednesday, August 21st from 6PM - 8PM	Kindergarten, First Grade, Second Grade Classrooms
Open House - Intermediate Grades	Wednesday, August 28 th from 6PM - 8PM	3 rd Grade, 4 th Grade, & 5 th Grade Classrooms
Chili's Night	Wednesday, August 28 th	

CAFETERIA NEWS

- On Sneak-a-Peek Day, parents may pre-pay lunches in the cafeteria. Cash or credit cards will be the only form of payments accepted at that time.
- Breakfast is free to all Broward County students (a student account number is required)
- First week of school, cafeteria staff will place a blue ID band on students backpacks with lunch#. These ID bands will help to expedite the breakfast line. Our cafeteria manager asks to not remove the ID bands.