

# W Panther's Voice W

Volume 1, Issue 1

Title I School – Imagine The Possibilities

August 2018

## *Message from the Principal,*

*Ms. Lori A. Mendez*

Dear Watkins Family,

I would like to welcome you back for another great year! For families, new to our school, we wholeheartedly welcome you to our school family. We are all excited to have the boys and girls back in our classrooms to continue this exciting academic journey. **Our school times have changed, the instructional day will begin at 8:10 a.m. and end at 3:10 p.m.** Please adjust your schedules accordingly.

As we open school you will notice some very significant changes district wide, particularly to Safety and Security. The changes as well as important school procedures are outlined in this newsletter. Most importantly is that the gates to our campus will be opened at 7:30 a.m. for arrival and locked at approximately 8:15 a.m. They will reopen at 3:05 p.m. for dismissal and locked again at 3:30 p.m.

In the event that you need to visit the campus, you will have to call the Front Office for entry to the campus. Your driver's license is required when you enter, as all visitors must be scanned through the front office to ensure our students' safety at all times. I thank you for adhering to the established procedures to safeguard our students, faculty and staff.

I also encourage you to keep the line of communication open, if you have any questions related to school policy and procedures, please feel free to contact the main office at 754 323 7800 or visit our website at

<https://www.browardschools1.com/watkins>.

Once again, welcome back. Let's make it another successful year here at Watkins Elementary!

Educationally Your's

*Lori A. Mendez,*

Proud Panther Principal



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**Mission:** The mission of Watkins Elementary is to create an environment where students and staff exceed the academic expectations set to meet their maximum potential.

**Vision:** Watkins is committed to all students, faculty and staff to reach their maximum potential as they become College and Career Ready.

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, prohibits any policy or procedure which results in discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, national origin, marital status, race, religion or sexual orientation. Individuals who wish to file a discrimination and/or harassment complaint may call the Director of Equal Opportunities at 754-321-2150 or Teletype Machine TTY 754-321-2158. Individuals with disabilities requesting accommodations under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) may call Equal Educational Opportunities (EEO) at 754-321-2150 or Teletype Machine TTY 754-321-2158.

## **SAFETY GUIDELINES**

Maintaining a safe campus is our priority here at Watkins Elementary. New guidelines and policies are being implemented districtwide in an effort to better secure our campuses. The District has mandated that once the school day begins, all perimeter gates must be locked except for one gate to allow for parent and visitor access to the school. This gate must be monitored at all times by school personnel. If personnel are not available to dedicate to this post, the gate must remain locked and visitors to the campus must call the school's office to gain entry to the campus. Due to budgetary constraints, Watkins Elementary does not have any extra staff to dedicate to solely monitoring the front entrance gate, therefore, we will need to close and lock the gate. Please help us to keep our campus safe by adhering to the following expectations for arrival, dismissal, and access to the campus. Visitors requiring access to the campus once the gates are locked, can contact the Front Office at 754 323 7800 and request access. **Gates will be unlocked at 7:30 a.m. and locked again at 8:15 a.m. For dismissal, gates will be unlocked at 3:05 p.m. and locked again at 3:30 p.m.**

### **Identification Badges:**

All students are required to wear an ID Badge while on campus. Students will be provided with one on the first day of school, it will not be sent home. Photo ID's will be created by our school vendor within 10 days of the beginning of school.

### **Unified Dress Code:**

**School Uniforms are MANDATORY at Watkins.** It is very important that students are in their uniforms every day, this will help us to quickly identify intruders on campus.. **Jeans and athletic wear are not acceptable.** Parents will be notified if your child isn't in compliance with the dress code policy. Progressive discipline consequences will be implemented for non-compliant students.

**Uniform Bottoms:** Khaki, Burgundy, Black, Gray, Burgundy & Gray Plaid

**Uniform Tops:** White, Burgundy, Gray, Pink

### **Arrival Procedures:**

Gates will be open at 7:30 a.m. for entry into the campus. **There is no supervision for students before 7:30 a.m. Parents may not drop their child off before 7:30 a.m.** All car riders including Pre K students will be dropped off in the car line. **Parents** wishing to park and walk their child to the office, can park in the west lot and access the school from the front office door on the south side of the school. Be sure to have a valid drivers license.

**Bike riders** can access the school from the front office door on the south side of the school. **Walkers** may enter the school from either the north side or south side doors, depending on their route to school. Students arriving on the bus, will enter the school and transition to the cafeteria for breakfast and supervision until dismissed to class. **Cars will not be permitted to enter the bus loop during arrival and dismissal.**

### **Dismissal Procedures**

Bus riders will exit the school and be supervised in the bus loop. Car riders will transition to the car loop and wait for their parents while being supervised. Car riders are defined as students leaving campus in a car. Walkers will exit the campus from either the south east or north west doors. Bikers will exit from the south west doors, closest to the bike rack.



To volunteer or chaperone a field trip in a Broward County Public School, you must be cleared first. Please fill out the application on the link provided and make sure you do it within enough time for the application to be processed, which may take several days. <http://browardschools.com/getinvolved/application>

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILLS**

As part of our normal practice, we conduct fire drills monthly and tornado drills two times per year. This year the District has mandated that "code red" lock down drills be conducted each month. At the conclusion of each planned drill, a Parent Link message will be sent informing you of the event. In the case of an actual emergency, Watkins Elementary will communicate with the school community as soon as feasibly possible using Parent Link. To ensure that you can receive this timely communication, be sure that you keep your contact information up to date with the front office.



### **Complete all Back-to-School forms needed on line!**

**<https://www.browardschools.com/backtoschoolonlineforms>**  
Only for students returning to their school. New students must follow in person registration process.

## **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (ASP)**

ASP is our on-site aftercare provider. ASP students are escorted to the cafeteria by staff from their grade level areas at dismissal. Students who attend other off campus private aftercare providers are dismissed with the bus students. Aftercare providers are required to pick up in the bus dismissal area. Be sure your child and teacher know the name of the aftercare provider.

## **EARLY DISMISSAL / SIGN OUT:**

As per School Board Policy, students are not permitted to be picked up 30 minutes prior to the end of the school day; the last 30 minutes are very critical. Teachers are conducting final review of lessons, distributing important information, and giving homework assignments. We thank you in advance for your cooperation with this matter. Also the gates to the school will be locked and you will have to contact the office for entry, please plan accordingly.

**AGENDA BOOKS:** Agenda books keep your child aware of important dates/homework assignments, and are used as a communication tool between the teacher and the parent. Please check and sign your child's agenda booklet daily.

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance at school often determines pupil progress. Students should attend school daily and arrive on time. In the event of an absence, **a call to the office is required beginning with the first day and continuing with all subsequent days.**

Remember, the front office must be notified of your child's absence **within 48 hours of their absence.** After five unexcused absences the parent/guardian will be contacted by the State District Attorney's Office. **Please make sure you call 754-323-7802.**

**CONFERENCES:** Conferences foster understanding among the teachers, students, and parents. A parent or teacher may request a conference at any time. Please call the school to arrange for a mutually convenient time to speak to your child's teacher.

**EARLY RELEASE DATES:** Early Release Days are designated by the School Board of Broward County. On these days students are dismissed at 1:10 pm.

**October 18, December 21, February 21, March 21,  
May 9, June 4**

**HOMEWORK:** Children are encouraged to study at home. Setting aside a definite time each evening for homework will develop good work habits. Routine study time is an excellent plan, particularly if it is done with a parent in a relaxed and positive setting. The classroom teachers will assign homework.

**INTERIM REPORTS:** An interim report is sent home half-way through a quarter to notify parents of progress. If you want to request a conference, or if the teacher requests a conference, please call the school to arrange a convenient time. Please sign the interim report and return it to the school immediately. Interim dates are as follows: **September 17; November 20; February 12; May 1**

**Report Cards:** A quarterly report card is sent home at the end of each quarter to notify parents of progress. Report Card dates are as follows: **November 14; January 30; April 16; June 4.**

### **CLASS SIZE AND STUDENT PLACEMENT**

Due to the State Class Size Reduction law, students may need to be moved between teachers after the start of school to ensure compliance with the required student limits. These limits are 18 students for Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 3; 22 students for grades 4 to 8; and 25 students for grades 9 to 12 in core classes. Please know that students' needs, will continue to be met through proper instruction and services. Additional information on core classes or anything related to Class Size Reduction is available on the Class Size Reduction website at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/classsize/>

### ***Message from the Assistant Principal, Ms. Shereen R. Reynolds***

Dear Watkins Families,  
Welcome to the 2018- 2019 school year! It is my great pleasure to once again serve as your Assistant Principal. The staff at Watkins Elementary are committed to providing you and your family with exceptional service.

My goal is to assist Ms. Mendez in providing the leadership that will create a school environment that is safe and secure, in order for your child to receive the best possible instruction. This will allow our students to learn and grow both academically and socially.

We will continue to focus on social emotional learning and provide opportunities for students to practice these skills. I ask that you also assist us by reminding your child(ren), what the desired behavior in school is.

**Respect, Own your actions A positive attitude and Responsibility defines the "Panther Way" here at Watkins Elementary!**

Should you have any questions, concerns or compliments, I can be reached at 754 323 7800 or by email at [shereen.reynolds@browardschools.com](mailto:shereen.reynolds@browardschools.com).

Warmest Regards,  
*Shereen R. Reynolds*  
Assistant Principal

### ***CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT***

BCPS expects the best from its students. Parents and students, know your rights and responsibilities. Read the Student Code of Conduct at <http://ow.ly/529R30lf3NJ> .

### ***TARDY!! Be in School; Be on Time***

The instructional school day begins promptly at 8:10 a.m. Your child will be marked tardy if they are not in their classroom by 8:10 a.m.



### **PARENTAL INPUT FOR INSTRUCTIONAL AND SCHOOL BASED ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATIONS.**

In accordance with Florida Statute 1012.34, parents have the opportunity the provide input into the faculty and administration performance evaluations. If you are interested, please provide the Principal with your input in writing by April 12, 2019.

## CAFETERIA NEWS

**Charged Meals** - Charged meals are allowed when a student does not have money in their account. Students are allowed to charge only once. If your child comes the second day without money he/she will be given an alternative meal. Students are told when they have \$2.00 or less in their account and that they need to bring money for the next day. Please feel free to call the cafeteria at 754-323-7810 or register online at [www.schoolpaymentsolutions.com](http://www.schoolpaymentsolutions.com) to check your child's balance.

**Birthday Celebration Notes:** If you choose to celebrate your child's birthday at school. Please note the following birthday celebration guidelines:  
1) Birthdays are recognized during lunch time in the cafeteria with cake/cupcakes that are purchased from a store. 2) Balloons and lighted candles are not allowed in schools. 3) Photos/videos of students within the cafeteria are not permitted. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe environment as you celebrate the special occasion.

**Be sure to complete your application for free and reduced lunch at [www.applyforlunch.com](http://www.applyforlunch.com)**

If you do not have internet access you may come into the office for assistance or call 754-321-0250



*Please help us welcome...*

*Leslie Blackman – Speech Language Pathologist*

*Sabine Dorival – Teacher Assistant*

*Laura Graham – Teacher Assistant*

*Jackie Martinez – Front Office*

*Shamarie Molina – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

*Osline Pierre - Pre K*

*Evelyn Pino – ESE Support*

*New To Support Staff*

*Michelle Patrovani – ESE Specialist*

## Important Date(s) To Remember



### Kindergarten Round Up / Meet your Teacher

August 11, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.

### Meet Your Teacher Gr. Pre K - 2

August 14, 2018 – 8:30 a. m – 9:10 a.m.

### Meet Your Teacher Gr. 3-5

August 14, 2018 – 9:20 a.m – 10:00 a.m.

### First Day of School

August 15, 2018

### Fall Pictures

August 29, 2018

### Open House Gr. 3-5

August 29, 2018 @ 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

### No School

September 3, 2018

### Open House Gr. K-2

September 5, 2018 @ 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

### No School

September 10, 2018

### No School

September 19, 2018

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**NO SUPERVISION ON CAMPUS  
BEFORE 7:30 A.M.**

**EXTENDED K -5 SCHOOL HOURS FROM  
8:10 A.M. TO 3:10 P.M.  
Pre – K: 8:10 A.M. – 2:10 P.M.**

**EARLY RELEASE  
K- 5 STUDENTS ARE DISMISSED  
AT 1:10 P.M.  
Pre K STUDENTS ARE DISMISSED  
AT 12:10 P.M.**

*in a  
world  
where you can  
be  
Anything  
BE  
kind*