



**Collins Elementary School
Back To School Newsletter
August 2022**

Hello Collins Family! We welcome you and look forward to having a great 2022-2023 school year! Collins Elementary is a Title I school meaning that our school receives additional support from federal dollars based on the number of students eligible for free and reduced lunch. Currently, our school grade is "C". Our school theme for this school year is "24K Collins M.A.G.I.C.". The M.A.G.I.C. stands for **Maximizing Achievement by Giving Individual Commitment**. To aid our students with bringing the magic, **Meet and Greet Day** for our families is scheduled for **Monday, August 15 at 10 a.m.** At the Meet and Greet, parents and Collins students will attend a general meeting in the school cafeteria and meet their child's teacher at the classroom. Our new After-school program, Firewall Centers, student bus transportation, and Kindergarten/New Student registration will be available. Collins students will also receive a backpack with school supplies from our community partners, Coke Florida and the Broward Education Foundation!

The first day of school is Tuesday, August 16. Universal Free breakfast begins at 7:30. Classroom instruction begins at 8:00 a.m. School dismissal is at 2:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing at the **Meet and Greet on Monday, August 15 and the first day of school on Tuesday, August 16.** Please see below some important information:

- **Construction Update** – Group restrooms are still under construction due delays of receiving supplies. Most of the classrooms have individual restrooms. However, the 700 and 800 hallways do not have classroom restrooms. Therefore, students in those hallways utilized an air-conditioned, modernized group restroom portable. We anticipate the opening of the new group restroom by the end of this school year. Additionally, the kitchen hood is scheduled for replacement within the school year.
- **Secure the Next Generation Referendum** – **August 23** presentation video has been sent out on BCPS Alerts and can be viewed on the district website. Please be informed on how this referendum can impact Broward County Public Schools.

- **School Year Updates –**
 - **Covid-19 Protocols** – Masks are not mandatory for staff, students, parents, visitors, and vendors. If a student is sick or displaying flu-like symptoms, parents are encouraged to keep the student home.
 - **Plain Language Security Protocols** – Safety is a high priority for Broward County Public Schools. BCPS is implementing new **Plain Language** security protocols districtwide. These security protocols will be taught to all staff and students at the beginning of the year. Monthly security drills will continue to take place. Parents will be given information soon about the new protocols. Parents are also encouraged to be knowledgeable about the apps called Alyssa’s Alert also known as **Safer Watch** and **Fortify FL** to report suspicious activities outside of the school day.
 - **Health Services/Student Code of Conduct Forms** – It is imperative that these forms including the Emergency Contact and Media Release forms be completed and returned for every student as soon as possible. These forms allow schools to provide necessary services throughout the school year. Without these forms completed on file, services such as health services in the clinic and photos will be limited.
 - **F.A.S.T.** – The Florida Assessment for Student Thinking is the new progress monitoring tool mandated by the Florida Department of Education. This assessment which features ELA and Math, is replacing the Florida Standard Assessment. This year will be a baseline year for achievement K-12 students. For more information, please visit www.fldoe.org.
 - **BEST 3-5 Standards for Reading and Math** will be implemented this year. These standards will be taught through the Benchmark Curriculum and the new Math Curriculum.
 - **Early Literacy Education** – Head Start students will participate in Star Early Literacy Assessments to monitor academic progress.
 - **Math Curriculum** – envision Florida is the newly adopted Mathematics curriculum for K-5. A parent workshop will take place for this new curriculum soon.
 - **Stem Scopes** will remain as the curriculum for K-5 Science.
- **First Day of School Logistics**
 - **Arrival Supervision** for students begins at 7:30 a.m. Students will arrive on campus at the West gate or through the car pickup area. Universal Free breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. **For the first three days of school, parents are allowed to walk their children to class. No parent conferences can take place at this time. On Friday, August 19, all schools will have Independence Day. This is when students will walk to class without parents.** Beginning Monday, August 22, Smart Start rooms will be available beginning on Monday, August 22 for student supervision from 7:30 until 7:55. Classes will be escorted to their classrooms for instruction.

- **Dismissal Supervision:** Dismissal is at 2:00 p.m. It is imperative that your child's teacher knows how each student will get home BEFORE THE END OF THE DAY. Please select ONE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION for the child. Students will be dismissed according to the transportation provided by the parent. This is a routine dismissal. Therefore, transportation must be consistent as much as possible.
 - Car riders** will be escorted to the car pickup area. Please place id cards inside the passenger window so that your child can be identified for pickup.
 - Students walking home or parents who park to meet students at dismissal** will proceed to the East gate.
 - Pre-K students not on the bus or car riders** will be picked up at the Center gate.
 - Bus students and Afterschool program buses** will be escorted to their designated bus or van. Please be at the bus stop to meet your child.
 - Students attending the Firewall After-school program** will be escorted to the cafeteria at dismissal time. Registration and flyer for the after-school program are on home page on this school website.
- **Security Gate/Parent Entry Procedures:** Safety and security are top priority. Please help us keep everyone safe. All visitors including parents must sign in through the Raptor Visitor Management System. **ALWAYS** bring state-issued identification when entering the school campus or picking up students for early dismissal. By law, students cannot be released 30 minutes prior to early dismissal time. For example, on a regular school day, students cannot be released after 1:30 p.m. This includes Early Release Days. On Early Release days students are dismissed at 12 noon. No early dismissal after 11:30 a.m. on Early Release days.
- **Daily School Protocols**
 - **Attendance** – Attendance counts all day, every day. Students need to be to school by 8 a.m. Attendance incentives will be issued to students who attend regularly. Parent contact will be made for more than three absences or excessive absences.
 - **Dress Code** – We want our students to dress for academic success. **School uniform policy will be in effect on Monday, September 12.** This gives plenty of time to buy school uniforms. The school uniform flyer is also on the school website and in the Main office. On Fridays, students can wear the school spirit t-shirt with jeans. Saggy pants, tank tops, strapless shirts, halter tops, jeans with holes, gel shoes, crocs, and open-toe sandals are prohibited.
 - **Mindfulness/SEL** – Each day school will begin with a moment of silence followed by a quick mindfulness activity. Social Emotional Learning will be embedded within lessons throughout the school day.
 - **Anti-Bullying/See Something Say Something** – All students are encouraged to be ambassadors for safety. Please inform administration if your child reports any suspicious activity (physical or cyber) that imposes a threat to the safety and well-being of anyone. Anonymous boxes are also found in the Main Office and the Media Center if students need to report an incident.

- **Student Discipline** – Student discipline will be handled according to the discipline matrix provided by Broward County Public Schools.
- **School-Home Communication** – Open communication is necessary for successful teaching and learning. Collins Elementary has an open-door policy to address concerns and for scheduling appointments for parent conferences. Classroom teachers will communicate procedures. All parents are strongly encouraged to get the **Class Dojo** app on their cell phones as this app is one of the primary forms of communication schoolwide. Parent link messages will also provide school-wide information throughout the year. Please listen to the entire parent link message to stay in touch with school activities and/or events. Monthly newsletters will be on the school website.
- **Parent and Community Involvement Opportunities** are available at Collins. Ms. Jordan is the School Volunteer Coordinator. Please contact her at 754-323-5150. All potential volunteers must complete clearance for the School Volunteer Application Process prior to becoming a school volunteer. Some upcoming opportunities include:
 - **School Advisory Council/School Advisory Forum** – Meets monthly to address school concerns and designated school funding sources.
 - **PTA**- Meets three times per school year and sponsors fundraisers to promote student achievement and teacher recognition.
 - **School Volunteers** – Assist with classroom/grade level activities/events and chaperone field trips.
 - **Business Partners** – Provide real-world application to classroom instruction and supply funding resources for school events/activities/academic needs.
 - **SAVE THE DATE – Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7 at 6 p.m.** More in-depth information will be given about curriculum and instruction and behavior expectations.

Who is Who:

Dr. Jackson, Principal

Mrs. Keenan, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Casamitjana, Guidance Counselor/Bus Transportation

Ms. Anderson, ESE Specialist

Ms. Jordan, Office Manager/School Volunteer Coordinator

Ms. Valerio, Registrar/IMT

Mrs. Hurst, Literacy Coach

Mrs. Sparks-Lee, Math Coach

Mr. Fernandez, Firewall Center After-School Program/ www.firewallcenters.org

Collins Elementary School Phone Number: 754-323-5150

**Let's Get Ready to Bring on the M.A.G.I.C. for
a WONDERFUL SCHOOL YEAR!!!**

#24K Collins M.A.G.I.C.