



Southmoreland Primary Center

September 2019



Dear Parents/Guardians and Friends of SPC:

On behalf of the faculty, staff and administration for the Southmoreland School District, I welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year. It is a pleasure to represent the district and to work with you as we pursue our mission of high quality learning for all of our students.

Our Kindergarten Orientation was a great success and we thank the parents who were in attendance for joining us and being a part of our program. We recognize how important it is for our students to begin their educational careers in a positive way and our teachers and staff all know the value of making school a warm, safe and inviting environment. This year, we have added STEM and Computer classes to our itinerant rotation—we are excited to offer these 21st century learning opportunities to our students!

Each month, I will be communicating our activities, events and other reminders to you by newsletter. I will also post this on our website, which I encourage you to visit frequently. Our address is: [www. Southmoreland.net](http://www.Southmoreland.net). Please click on the “schools” tab and choose Southmoreland Primary Center.

I look forward to serving as your principal and to being a part of your child’s education. For me, there is no greater honor. I thank you in advance for your support and involvement in this process.

Respectfully,

Mr. Clara
Principal, SPC



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10 Simple Ways to Help Your Child Succeed in School

1. Model a Love for Learning

Show that you believe that education is important by reading at home, supporting your child at school activities such as open houses and parent/teacher conferences.

2. Build Good Relationships

Initiate a positive relationship with your child's teacher and principal before conflicts occur. It's better to take one day off work to create a good relationship than two days off repairing damage from a bad one.

3. Know What He/She Likes About School

Identify your child's favorite subject and find a way to use that subject to encourage his/her interest in the other subjects.

4. Give the Teacher Information

Share information about your child's favorite subject and special interests with his/her teacher.

5. Encourage Participation

Find out if your child is getting behind or needs more challenging work before problems occur. Some students can be more easily distracted or distract other students when they are not properly challenged.

6. Listen to the Lesson

Encourage your child to discuss school lessons with you every day and ask questions like 'what did you learn today?'. Children are encouraged to learn when they believe that their parents are interested in what they know. If they don't think you're interested in what they learn in school they may not be either.

7. Make it Fun

Help your child associate learning with rewards and fun. Think of fun ways to help him/her see the value of getting a good education.

8. Create a Learning Environment

Identify the type of environment your child performs best in (lighting, location, time of day etc.) and create a spot in your home, whenever possible, that supports his/her preferred environment during homework time.

9. Promote Great Expectations

Give your child access to academically challenging information and supervised learning experiences. Increase the number of books available to your child and encourage your child to read daily. Research shows that the number of books and words a child has exposure to can positively influence and improve his/her experiences in school.

10. Affirm & Support

Remind your child that they do not have to be great at everything and encourage and praise them when they do their best.



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Today's kindergarten

Kindergarten classrooms of today hardly resemble those of your childhood memories. Today's kindergarten classrooms have high expectations for children's academic achievement, social skills, and independence. Parents should also have high expectations for their child's kindergarten program.

Good kindergarten programs:

- Support and encourage all children, regardless of prior preschool experience, culture, language, ability, or disability.
- Use teaching practices that are challenging but appropriate for kindergarten-aged children.
- Encourage children's enthusiasm about learning.
- Provide a balanced curriculum with activities in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, art, and physical education.
- Invite parents to participate in their child's education.

What can I do to prepare?

Having a child entering kindergarten can be a time of excitement and stress for parents. Planning ahead will make this time less stressful for you and your child. To get ready for your child to enter kindergarten you should:

- Decide which kindergarten program your child will attend.
- Request an enrollment packet from the school—notice the important dates and deadlines.
- Schedule an appointment with your child's pediatrician to make sure that his or her immunizations and health screenings are up-to-date.
- Give your child's current preschool program permission to share documents and information with the new school.
- Attend an open house or schedule a tour of your child's new school before school starts.



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- Meet your child's new teacher and share your ideas about your child's interests, strengths and any areas of concern.
- Find out how you can become involved in your child's classroom, school committees, and the PTA.

What can I do to prepare my child?

Kindergarten will be a time of many changes for your child. He or she will have to adjust to new teachers, new children, new schedules, and routines. Having a successful entry into kindergarten will help your child have a positive attitude about school and learning. To get your child ready for kindergarten, you should:

- Read books about starting kindergarten.
- Talk enthusiastically with your child about starting kindergarten.
- Reassure your child's feelings of anxiety or fear.
- Plan for your child to visit his or her new school.
- Tell your child about the kinds of work he or she will be doing in kindergarten.
- Talk about and practice new routines.
- Spend extra time on the first day of school but do not "drag out" saying good-bye.

What should I know about transitioning a preschooler with special needs?

If your child has special needs, you may have additional decisions to make about the length of your child's school day, different school sites, or program types. It is important to begin working with the school team as early as possible so that everyone, especially your child, feels comfortable with all the changes that will occur. For incoming kindergartners with special needs, the federal special education law (i.e., the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) allows the school team to develop either an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). However, no matter which plan your child has, it should be appropriate for a kindergarten-aged child rather than for a preschooler.

Resources

Books

Mrs. Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten, Joseph Slate, Ashley Wolff.

The Night Before Kindergarten, Natasha Wing, Julie Durrell.

Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come! Nancy Carlson.

What Do We Say? What Do We Do? Vital Solutions for Children's Educational Success and Creating Positive Home School Connections, Dorothy Rich.



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Back-to-School Buses

Back to School means that the buses will be out on the roads again. Since most of the students that attend Southmoreland Elementary and Southmoreland Primary Center arrive and depart on buses, we would like to remind you of the road safety rules regarding buses and child safety. A bus safety program for kindergarten will be held in September. This will be presented by Groomes Transit and Quest Coach, our teachers and our principal.

- 1.5 million students are transported on Pennsylvania roads each day.
- These students are transported more than 320 million miles to school each year.
- Every year children are needlessly injured or killed by drivers **passing stopped school buses**.

Please take moment to review the Pennsylvania school bus stopping law and please help us keep our kids safe!

- When you meet or overtake a stopped school bus with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, you MUST STOP.
- When you approach an intersection where a stopped school bus with red signal lights flashing and stop arm extended, you MUST STOP.
- You MUST STOP at least ten (10) feet away from the school bus.
- You MUST WAIT until the red lights have stopped flashing and the stop arm has been withdrawn before moving.
- DO NOT MOVE until all the children have reached a place of safety.
- You MUST STOP on roadways with painted dividing lines.
- You MUST STOP on roadways with the dividing lines cut into the road.
- The only time you do not have to stop is on a highway with a clearly defined dividing section or barrier providing separate roadways (concrete wall, metal railing, or wide grassy area. This applies ONLY when the bus is on the opposite side of the road.

IF IN DOUBT, STOP!!

If you are convicted of violating Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping Law you could receive all of the following penalties:

- 60-day driver's license suspension
- Five points on your driving record
- \$100.00 fine, plus court costs!

Along with the usual list of bus safety rules, tell your children to watch all of the cars around their bus when they come to a stop. They need to be cautious when they enter and exit the bus, looking out for a vehicle that may not be following the law.

HELP US KEEP THEM ALL SAFE!!