

First Day of School

Southmoreland Elementary School

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year at Southmoreland Elementary School! Please know as you walk through the hallways of your school that you are surrounded by people who deeply care about you, who are guided by a passion for helping you to reach your potential, and who wholeheartedly believe in you...every day...always. We look forward to making this a rewarding year for all of us.

We know that many of you are a little bit nervous, and possibly a lot anxious about what lies ahead. Please remember that you are not alone. We are here to help you; we are in this together.

Here are some of the most common questions asked at the beginning of the school year at SES:

I ride the bus to school, what should I expect?

Proceed to your assigned bus stop and make sure that you arrive early. Don't forget your mask or face shield. You will need this to board the bus. Federal law mandates that students wear face coverings while on school transportation.

Once you arrive, you will be directed off the bus and guided to the main set of doors in the front of the building. If you eat breakfast, report to the cafeteria. If you do not eat breakfast, you can proceed to the gymnasium. Breakfast and lunch are free this year to all students, but it is recommended that students complete the free and reduced lunch form.

It's recommended to arrive at your bus at least five- ten minutes before your pickup time until bus routines are established. Usually after the first week, pick up/drop off times are consistent.

I get dropped off by a parent or guardian, what do I do?

Your parent/guardian will drop you off to the right side of the building at the top of the hill. Parents will drive around to the back of the school and swing back around to the top of the hill where you will exit the vehicle on the **RIGHT** side. You will be greeted by a staff and/or a member of our school security team. They will direct you into the building.

ONLY students that are designated as walkers by our transportation department will be permitted to walk home. All other students will either ride the school bus or be picked up by parents. Parents must display the parent pick up numbers in the vehicles. If you are riding home with another student to their home, notes **MUST** be received from **BOTH**

parents/guardians. If notes are not received from both sets of parents/guardians then the child(ren) will ride the bus to their residence on file.

Students may enter the building at 8:45 AM. Students are considered tardy if they arrive after 9:10 AM. Dismissal begins at 3:30 PM with announcements. Buses begin departing the school approximately 3:35 PM. Be mindful that the first week of school, transportation could be running early/late until routines are established.

No student will be dismissed after 3:00 PM for early dismissal.

Once I get to school, what do I do?

You will either go to the cafeteria for breakfast or the gymnasium if you ate at home.

Who are my teachers? Here is the list of teachers by grade level and their homeroom number.

HOMEROOM LISTS 2021-2022			
GRADE 002		GRADE 003	
RM	TEACHER	RM	TEACHER
D401	Mrs. Govi	A103	Ms. Brodak
D402	Mrs. Zimmerman	A104	Mr. Sheridan
D403	Mrs. Glowacki	A105	Mr. Kriger
D406	Mrs. Marnell	A106	Mrs. Coleman
D407	Mrs. Pushkis	A108	Mrs. Zeffiro
D410	Mrs. Jones	A109	Mrs. Schaeffer
GRADE 004		GRADE 005	
RM	TEACHER	RM	TEACHER

A112	Mrs. Kuhns	A115	Mrs. Goodiski
A113	Miss Lee	A116	Mrs. Cessario
A123	Mrs. Dzambo	A117	Ms. McComack
A124	Mr. Sekerchak	A119	Mr. Dye
A127	Mrs. King	A120	Mrs. Cottom
A128	Ms. Henry	A121	Mr. Pritts

Who is my Principal?

Mrs. Kuchar-Long is your Principal. Some of you may remember me from a few years ago, if not, I will see you at Meet the Teacher Night.

I'm in my homeroom, now what do I do?

Your teachers will guide you through your day. No worries - we are all here to help you. There are many important documents that need to be completed by your parents/guardians. Most of them are posted on the SES website and can be completed online. The most important form that needs completed is the electronic version of the **Emergency Card** that is posted on the **SES website** under **Parent\Student Resource** and then **Parent Information**. This form helps us communicate with your parents/guardians in case of emergency. This form needs to be completed by **Sunday, September 5, 2021 @ 11:59 PM**. Have a parent/guardian complete these documents.

Another form is available under Parent\Student Resource and then **Parent Information** to update contact information throughout the school year. For example: address, phone number, email, and/or emergency contacts. It is important to provide us with updated information immediately, as this is how we contact parents/guardians in case of emergency. This is also how we communicate via school messenger/robocall.

What about lunch?

Your teacher will take you to the cafeteria. If you are eating a school lunch, take a seat, and wait for your table to be called to get in line for lunch. If you bring your lunch, find a seat at your table and begin eating.

When entering the serving line (where food is served), only six (6) students are allowed in that area at one time. Please be quiet so that the servers can hear lunch choices from other students.

You may not buy extras when going through the lunch line. When everyone has been served, you will be allowed to go back through the line to buy extras. You must know your lunch number. No worries, you will learn this soon enough.

You may not leave the cafeteria without permission from a lunch duty staff member.

The custodians will go table by table with a garbage can to have you throw away your garbage. Please remain seated at this time. If you make a mess, please clean it up. Throw away all opened containers of food to avoid spills. No open containers are permitted to leave the cafeteria.

You will be called by your homeroom class to line up when your teacher has arrived in the cafeteria for you.

Be mindful of your noise level inside the cafeteria. If all students are talking at the same time, it gets extremely loud. Do not shout across the table or on the other side of the room. Use your inside voice.

How will I be dismissed at the end of the day?

We will call students over the loudspeaker by bus numbers. It is extremely important that you are listening for your bus number to be called, so that you don't miss your bus. Secondly, we will dismiss students who are to be picked up by parents/guardians. Lastly, we will dismiss walkers.

What happens if I am quarantined due to COVID?

Students will be considered medically excused if they are quarantined due to COVID. Teachers will post items in their Google Classrooms for students to stay up to date with schoolwork. Instruction will be asynchronous - which means it will be independent.

What if I don't want to attend brick and mortar school because I want a remote option?

The district is offering SOLA (Southmoreland On-Line Academy) through the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit, known as eAcademy. This is an asynchronous option for students not wanting to attend brick and mortar. Mr. Mascia is the contact person to enroll in this program. His email is masciav@southmoreland.net. [For more information about SOLA, click this link.](#)