

A young girl with long brown hair and glasses, wearing a vibrant floral dress and a blue wristband, is captured in motion as she hula hoops on a lush green lawn. She is the central focus of the image, with her arms outstretched and one leg raised. In the background, a man in a grey shirt is kneeling and taking a photo with his phone, while other children and adults are scattered across the grassy area. The scene is set outdoors with tall pine trees under a clear blue sky. The title 'The Bearkat Big Picture' is overlaid in the top right corner in a white serif font, with a thick orange horizontal line underneath it.

The
Bearkat
Big Picture

**A PARENT OVERVIEW OF
THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR
AT THE POST OAK SCHOOL**

Ready...

Welcome to the 2023–2024 school year!
This booklet provides a quick glance at information to help prepare for the year ahead. You can find more detailed topics in the Parent Portal on our website.

As always, please read the weekly email we call The Post for any event updates, as well as other important news.

We are grateful your family is a part of The Post Oak School community, and are excited for a wonderful year ahead.



Beary the Bearkat
says welcome back!



postoakschool

What does that mean? Common Post Oak Abbreviations

ASEP	After-School Enrichment Program	IB	International Baccalaureate
A-Term	April Term	M-Term	March Term
BC	Bissonnet Campus	MDC	Museum District Campus
EL	Elementary	MMUN	Montessori Model United Nations
FD	Full-Day	MS	Middle School
J-Term	January Term	OWL	Our Whole Lives
LE	Lower Elementary	POPA	Post Oak Parent Association (you!)
HD	Half-Day	PRI	Primary
HMI	Houston Montessori Institute	UE	Upper Elementary
HS	High School	YCC	Young Children's Community



LOOKING
FORWARD
to another
WONDERFUL
YEAR!



STAYING IN THE KNOW

How do I ...

Learn about what's happening

DIGITAL

The Post email
Website/Parent Portal
Teachers' newsletters
Post Oak Facebook group
Social media
(Facebook & Instagram)

PUBLICATIONS

Family Calendar
Printed Directory

PARENT EDUCATION EVENTS

Fall and spring conferences
Parent ed offerings at each level
Sessions with Post Oak counselors
Coffees with the head and directors
Parent OWL meetings
Watch The Post for opportunities!

Find parenting support

Connect with other families

Visit the
Parent Portal >
Practical Info
to find a list of topics
from A to Z

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community Coffee
POPA Parent Welcome Dinner
Family Fun Day
POPA Community Service Days
POPA Work Days & Coffee Chats
Barkats games
Dads Club Events
Biennial Gala
Golf Tournament
Book Fair
POPA End-of-Year Party

EVENTS/MEETINGS

Orientations
Parent education events
Transition meetings for next level
Alumni Voices event

Prepare for what's to come

Do you have a question but don't know where to go? We want to help. Please call the front office at 713-661-6688 or email frontoffice@postoakschool.org and we will help you find the answer.

Communication, Parent Resources, & Other Notes

We appreciate your efforts to stay connected and informed given the volume of data directed at us on any given day. For general school information, refer to the Family Handbook, which is updated each summer in the Parent Portal. A printed copy of the full school directory will be available at both front offices and you can also download the directory app.

Website & Parent Portal

The Parent Portal (postoakschool.org/parents) includes news, calendars, links to resources, the Partnership Agreement, and the Family Handbook. You can access the portal from the top menu under “Parents” or click the right-hand menu and choose “Parent Portal.” Some pages may be locked to the public, requiring you to sign in. Your user name and password are the same as those for My BackPack.

The Post

Most Fridays we email The Post, a digital newsletter that includes general announcements, information about upcoming events, community news, and links to forms, registration, or other action items.

My BackPack

My BackPack™ (MBP) is an online portal to update contact information, register for classes, and more. The *Getting Started with My BackPack User Guide* and login link can be found in the Parent Portal on our website.

If you have any questions about logins or have forgotten your user ID, please contact the Technology Office at 281-822-8063 or tech@postoakschool.org.

Magnus

The school uses Magnus, a web-based system for form management, where parents have continuous access to their child’s health records, as well as the ability to make updates when needed. Additionally, Magnus handles field trip permission slips and other school-related forms. Please see the the Family Handbook Health & Safety section for more information about Magnus.

Visitor Registration

The school has implemented Raptor, a visitor registration system that enhances school security by scanning visitors’ driver’s licenses, comparing information to a sex offender database, alerting campus

administrators if a match is found, and (assuming no match was made) printing a visitor badge that includes the person’s name, photo, date of visit, and destination within the building. Raptor provides a consistent system to track visitors while also protecting our students.

All visitors to the school must present a valid state or government-issued photo identification card to the receptionist. Parents need only to present their ID once, and on subsequent visits their names will be entered manually to create a visitor badge. No additional data will be shared with any outside company or organization.

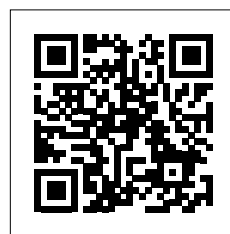
Parent Education Events

Post Oak offers parent education events to strengthen child-parent-teacher relationships. These programs and speakers focus on Montessori educational principles and practice, parenting skills, and child development issues.

Information about each event is available in The Post closer to the event date. Most of the parent education events offer childcare for current Post Oak Primary and Elementary students. Parents are asked to make reservations in advance online or by contacting the front office—they will be accepted as long as space and staffing allow. The cost of childcare is \$5 per child and will be billed on your monthly statement.

Room Parents

Room parents are part of the Post Oak Parents Association (POPA) leadership team. They are communicators between the teacher or division director and class parents. Room parents help support the work of the teacher in many ways, from shopping to organizing parent volunteers.



Visit the Parent Portal for quick links to My BackPack, Magnus, the Family Handbook, and more.

Bissonnet Campus Arrivals & Dismissals | YCC through Grade 6

Arrivals and dismissals at the Bissonnet Campus have been refined through many years of practice for optimal flow. Your patience is appreciated as we begin this new year and get back into our natural rhythm. Please remember that a few seconds spent by you can be very important to the child who is gaining independence.

Important Notes

- ♦ Refrain from using your mobile device while driving on campus. They may only be used while parked.
- ♦ The speed limit on campus is 5 mph.
- ♦ Keep safety belts buckled until the car comes to a complete stop at the arrival area. Buckle all safety belts before you resume driving.

Entering and Exiting Campus

- ♦ All cars must enter through gate A (see map).
- ♦ Gate C is a right turn only exit.
- ♦ Do not enter the arrival/dismissal line via Wedgewood—it's considered cutting in line.
- ♦ Car signs will be issued at the start of the school year. Please display them when you enter Ave. B so we can direct you to the appropriate line.

Be Mindful of Pedestrians

- ♦ Drivers, please do not block the pedestrian crosswalk.
- ♦ Pay attention, stop, and allow any waiting pedestrians to pass through the crosswalk.
- ♦ Pedestrians, please use the pedestrian gates and crosswalks.

Parking on Campus

Park only in designated spaces to allow for unobstructed traffic flow. Please do not park in reserved parking spaces, including those designated “buddy parking.”

Efficiency

- ♦ Please do not engage staff in discussion during arrivals and dismissals. If you need to get a message to your child's teacher, call or send them an email.
- ♦ Stay in your car when you are waiting in line. If you need to get out, please park in the visitor spaces of the parking lot.

Young Children's Community

- ♦ Arrival time is based on the child's contract hours. YCC children may not arrive between 8:00 and 8:35 a.m. while the Elementary children are disembarking. If you arrive during this time, you will be directed to exit campus.
- ♦ For YCC families with children at other levels, this schedule will require separate drop-offs for the

different levels. This staggered schedule has been created with the safety of both parents and children in mind.

Peace Circle Procedures

- ♦ To speed up Primary arrivals, once stopped, please stay in your car. Unbuckle your child if you can do so from the driver's seat. If you are unable to do this without getting out of your car, we are ready to unbuckle your child for you to keep things moving.
- ♦ In the Peace Circle, please remain parked until all children are safely out and the line starts moving.
- ♦ Do not drive around cars that are in the process of dropping off a child. It is unsafe for the child and staff.

Elementary

- ♦ Cars arriving on the Avenue B side before 8:15 a.m. are requested to leave the space open at the FDYCC gate by parking behind the “Wait Here” sign.

Early Arrival (7:30–8:00 a.m.)

Only students enrolled in before-school programs may enter the building during this time.

- ♦ Students with siblings who are Middle & High School that ride the shuttle may enter at 7:50 a.m.
- ♦ Other students arriving earlier than 8:15 a.m. must wait in their cars.
- ♦ Please see the Parent Portal for drop-off locations for students in the before-care program.
- ♦ Drop off for all of your children will be at the youngest child's environment.

Late Arrival

At 8:30 a.m., the doors into the school are locked on the Avenue B side. At 8:40 a.m., the doors to the Peace Circle are also locked. Students arriving after those times must enter the school through the front door with a parent or other designated guardian; adults park in the visitor spaces at the front of the school and then walk children into the reception area of the school. A staff member will guide your child to class as needed.

Arrivals

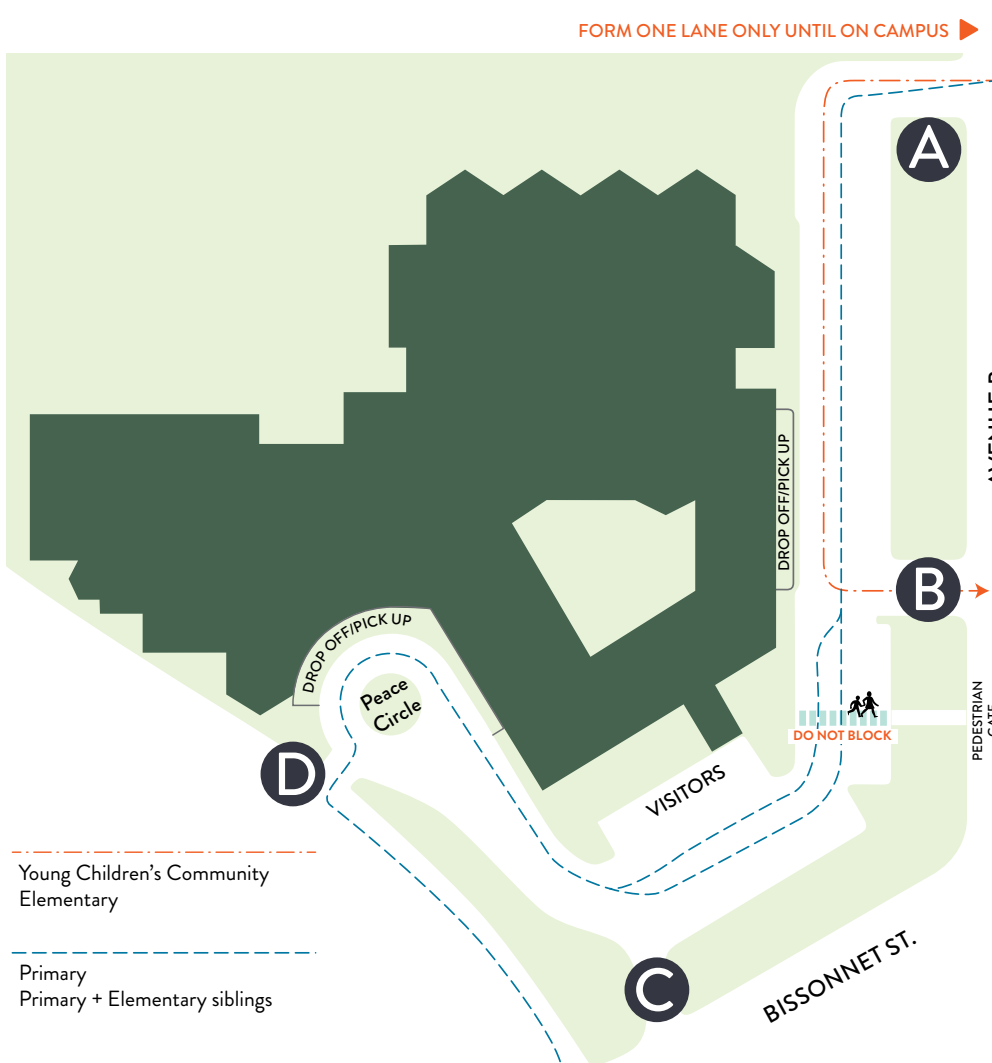
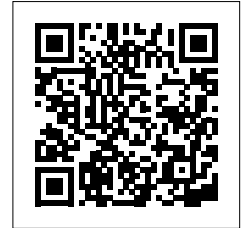
Regular Arrival Areas

- Young Children’s Community: at your child’s classroom door on the Avenue B side;
- Primary: at the Peace Circle (no Primary children may be dropped off on the Avenue B side);
- Elementary: Avenue B side or Peace Circle (do not drop off at any other location).

Schedule & Traffic Flow for Arrival

LEVEL	TIME	ENTRY	DROP-OFF	EXIT
HDYCC & FDYCC	8:35–8:50	A	Avenue B side	B
YCC Before-Care	7:30–8:10	A	Avenue B side	B
PRI	8:15–8:40	A	Peace Circle	C
PRI Before-Care	7:30–8:10	A	PRI playground gate, Ave B side; escort to class back door	B
LE	8:15–8:30	A	Avenue B side or Peace Circle	B
UE	8:15–8:30	A	Avenue B side or Peace Circle	B

For more parking, inter-campus shuttle, and arrivals/dismissals info, visit the Parent Portal.



Avenue B travel is **one-lane only**; do not form two lanes—emergency vehicles must be able to pass.

Bissonnet Campus Arrivals & Dismissals | YCC through Grade 6

Dismissals

Changes in Pick-up Routine

If your child is to be picked up by anyone other than the person who usually picks them up (or who is listed for authorized pick up), or if your child is going home with a friend, please notify your child’s teacher in writing at least 24 hours prior to pick up. If there is a last minute change of plans and you need to notify the school less than one day prior to pick up, the school will accept hand-written notes on the same day or a phone call or email to the front office (frontoffice@postoakschool.org). Last minute phone requests need to be followed by an email. All requests are subject to verification, and anyone picking up a child may be required to provide personal identification. These measures are in place for the protection and safety of your child—and for your peace of mind.

Late Pick-up

At the end of the dismissal period, children who have not been picked up are taken to the front office. Late-arriving parents will need to park, come into the reception area, and sign out children from care. We will make the children comfortable while they wait. However, it is natural for a child to be anxious if you are late; please call the school if you know you will be late.

Regular Dismissal

- ♦ Young Children’s Community: at your child’s classroom door on the Avenue B side;
- ♦ Primary: at the Peace Circle;
- ♦ Lower Elementary: at the Peace Circle or with Upper Elementary siblings on the Avenue B side or as directed by your child’s teacher;
- ♦ Upper Elementary: Avenue B side or as directed by your child’s teacher.

Dismissal to After-School Enrichment Program (ASEP)

Elementary students are dismissed at 3:40 p.m. directly to ASEP classes from their classrooms.

Dismissal from ASEP

All ASEP classes at the Bissonnet Campus dismiss at the Peace Circle at the end of the scheduled class. All the students will remain in their ASEP classrooms until they are called to the Peace Circle.

Regular Dismissal Areas

- ♦ YCC: at your child’s classroom on the Avenue B side;
- ♦ PRI: at the Peace Circle;
- ♦ LE: at the Peace Circle or with UE siblings on the Avenue B side or as directed by your child’s teacher;
- ♦ UE: Avenue B side or as directed by your child’s teacher.

Schedule & Traffic Flow for Dismissal

LEVEL	TIME	ENTRY	PICK-UP	EXIT
HDYCC	11:35–11:50	A	Avenue B side	B
FDYCC	2:45–3:10	A	Avenue B side	B
YCC After-Care	3:45–5:30	A	Avenue B side	B
HD PRI	12:00–12:15	A	Peace Circle	C
FD PRI	3:00–3:30	A	Peace Circle	C
PRI After-Care	3:45–5:30	A	Avenue B side (playground gate)	B
LE	3:25–3:45	A	Peace Circle	C
UE	3:25–3:45	A	Avenue B side	B
ASEP	per schedule	A	Peace Circle	C

For All Drivers Using Avenue B Entrances

Cars arriving on the Avenue B side outside of their designated time are requested to leave the space open at the FDYCC gate by parking behind the “Wait Here” sign. Full-Day YCC has dismissal from 2:45–3:10. Please do not block the FDYCC gate area. After 3:45, FDYCC 1 dismissal continues until 5:30 p.m.

General Arrivals & Dismissals Information

Inter-Campus Shuttle

If your student plans to ride the bus between the Bissonnet Campus and Museum District Campus, please pay attention to the following guidelines:

8:00 a.m. Morning shuttle from Bissonnet to Museum District

- For Middle School and High School students who wish to ride the morning shuttle, please email Debbie Henderson (debbiehenderson@postoakschool.org) with the name of your student and the days of the week they will be riding the shuttle.
- Students may arrive at the Bissonnet Campus between 7:50 and 8:00 a.m. Shuttle riders will go directly to the bus.
- Enrolled siblings in Elementary or Primary may also arrive at that time, as care will be provided for them until class starts.
- The bus leaves at 8:00 a.m. and does not wait for students who are late.
- The bus arrives at the Museum District between 8:20 and 8:30 a.m., depending on traffic.

3:35 p.m. Afternoon shuttle from Museum District to Bissonnet

- Middle School students wishing to ride the afternoon shuttle should inform their advisors of the days they will be riding the shuttle. Advisors will make sure the student gets onto the shuttle.
- High School students who wish to ride the shuttle are responsible for getting themselves onto the shuttle directly after school. The bus leaves at 3:35 p.m. and does not wait for students who are late.
- The bus arrives at the Bissonnet Campus between 3:50 and 4:00 p.m., depending on traffic.
- Enrolled siblings in Elementary or Primary will have care provided for them during this time until 4:00 p.m.
- All students must be picked up at 4:00 p.m. unless they are attending a Bearkats practice. There is no care for Middle School and High School students at the Bissonnet Campus after 4:00 p.m.

Expectations of student behavior on the bus

- All students must face forward with feet on the floor.
- Seatbelts must be on and snug.
- Students may not switch seats once the bus is moving.

- Students may not talk to the bus driver.
- In the case of any incident where students are at risk of getting hurt, the bus driver will pull over and stop the bus.
- Riding the bus is considered being in school. All of the expectations of student behavior, as outlined in the Parent Portal, carry over to the bus. In the event that a student fails to meet the expectations above, they are at risk of losing shuttle privileges.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Debbie Henderson at debbiehenderson@postoakschool.org if you have any questions.

Shuttle Riders

- If you have a shuttle rider and a BC student, please drop off both students inside the campus. The shuttle rider walks to the bus, and you remain in the appropriate arrival line. Please do not drop off the shuttle child outside the gate and U-turn on Avenue B to enter the parking lot from the northbound lane or back your car down Avenue B to turn into the gate.
- Please have your shuttle riders here on time. The shuttle leaves promptly at 8:00 a.m. If it leaves late, this creates a backup on Ave. B.

Public Transportation

The Houston Metro route #56 stops on Montrose Boulevard at Autrey Street right next to the MDC. Metro route #65 travels east-west on Bissonnet between the Museum District Campus (Bissonnet at Montrose) and the Bissonnet Campus (Bissonnet at Avenue B). Travel time is about 15 to 20 minutes. For more information, please visit www.ridemetro.org.

Museum District Campus | Grades 7 through 12

General Notes

As we are a small campus on the edge of a residential area, please be courteous and aware of all local traffic, especially along Autrey Street.

The Museum District Campus has a one-way driveway around the buildings to allow for off-street drop-offs and pick-ups. Traffic moves around the buildings clockwise, entering from Autrey Street (south) and exiting on Montrose Boulevard (east). If you are picking up or dropping off your child, please drive along Autrey Street from the east, enter the driveway, and pull around to the Middle School entrance or High School entrance.

Do not park your car and leave it in the driving lane. When exiting, please turn right onto Montrose Boulevard (southbound).

Arrival

The Middle and High School buildings are open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Students should plan to arrive by 8:15 a.m. Classes start at 8:30 a.m.

Students are required to be on campus from the beginning of their first commitment of the day until the completion of their last commitment. Students are expected to attend all class commitments, field experiences, school trips, class meetings, sports, activities, and any other required school function.

Middle School

- ♦ Advisory groups meet between 8:15 and 8:30 a.m. Plan to arrive as close to 8:15 as possible. Students arriving after 8:30 will be counted tardy.
- ♦ Attendance is taken when classes begin at 8:30 a.m. Students not in class, even if they are on campus, will be counted tardy.

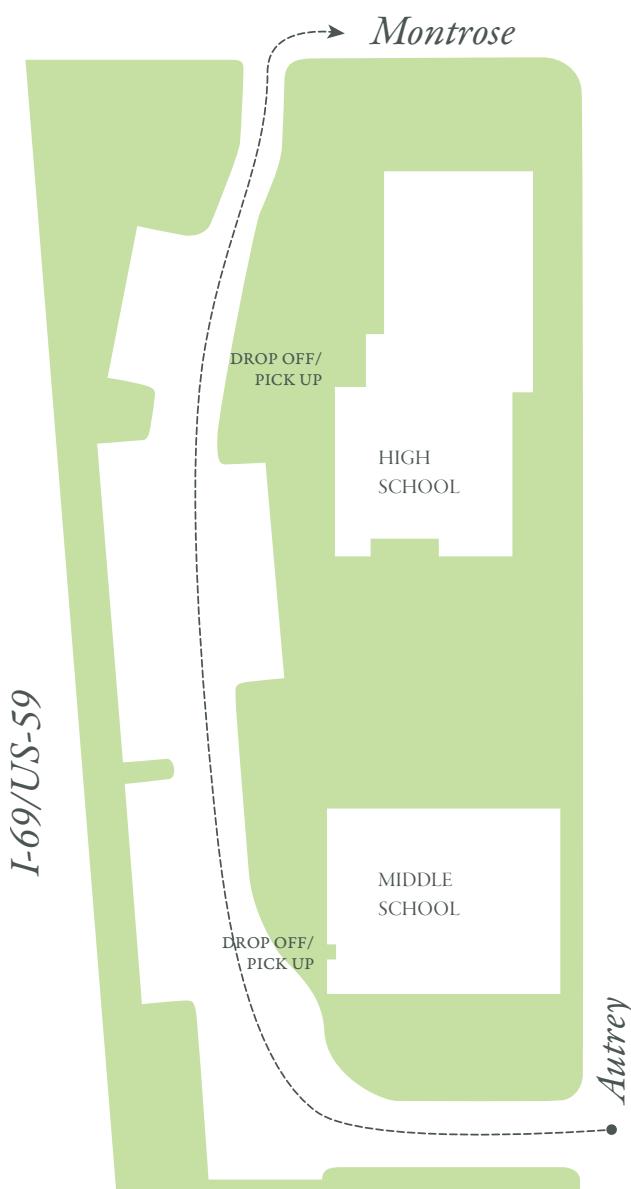
High School

- ♦ The school day begins at 8:30 a.m. Students should arrive at school by 8:15 a.m. to allow time to prepare for their day.
- ♦ Attendance is taken when classes begin at 8:30 a.m. Students are expected to be present and prepared for class at this time. Students not in class, even if they are on campus, will be counted tardy.

Late Arrival and Early Dismissal

If a student arrives after 8:30 a.m., they must sign in at the Museum District Campus office. A parent must provide a written reason for the late arrival.

We consider more than five tardies for the year to be problematic. Advisors are expected to speak with parents directly about late arrivals. If there is no improvement, then advisors are expected to inform the administration when tardies are excessive. At that point, the division director will contact the parent and together they will discuss how to manage more timely arrivals. In some extreme cases, tardies may affect the decision to offer a student a re-enrollment contract for the following school year.



MDC Dismissals

The campus is open until 5:00 p.m.

Middle School Dismissal

The school day ends at 3:30 p.m. Dismissal is from 3:30–3:45 p.m. The Middle School building is open until 5:00 p.m. daily. Occasionally the building will be subject to an early building closure, which will be communicated to families in advance so other arrangements can be made.

High School Dismissal

The school day ends at 3:30 p.m. The High School building is open until 5:00 p.m. Occasionally the building will be subject to an early building closure, which will be communicated to families in advance so other arrangements can be made.

Early Dismissal

If a student needs to leave school before 3:30 p.m., they must sign out at the Museum District Campus office, providing a verbal or written excuse from the parent with the reason for the early departure. It is the student's responsibility to discuss with their teachers what may have been missed.

MDC Student Drivers

Students who wish to drive to school must register their car according to the instructions below. Finding parking is the responsibility of the student and family. The MDC has limited student parking. Student cars driven to campus must remain parked for the duration of the school day.

No student is to leave campus by car, even their own car, without permission from the Museum District Campus office. Violation of this understanding may result in the loss of the privilege of having a car on campus, loss of riding permission, and/or other disciplinary action.

The Post Oak School reserves the right to inspect the contents of student automobiles on campus. Each student is responsible for everything in their car.

Student drivers may transport themselves to school-related events. Student drivers may not transport other students to school-related events (e.g. school-arranged community service, internships) unless a parent or guardian of both driver and passenger have submitted signed waivers to the school.

Contact the MDC office for more information (MDCOffice@postoakschool.org).

To park in the school lot:

All vehicles must be registered using the Student Driver Registration Form on the Parent Portal Transport & Parking page of our website under the Student Drivers tab. (Complete one form for each vehicle the student may drive to school.)

- After filling out the Registration Form, obtain your permit from the MDC office. This permit must be displayed in the car at all times while it is parked on campus.
- Receiving a parking permit does not guarantee a parking spot in the lot.
- Parking spaces are available on a “first come, first served” basis, and ONLY with a permit clearly visible on the vehicle.
- Student parking is only available between spaces 6 to 17. (12 buddy spaces for a total of 24 student spots)
- If there are no spaces available in the lot, the Parent Portal links to a map showing the designated parking areas. Anywhere outside of the restricted areas is open for students to park.

For more parking, inter-campus shuttle, and arrivals/dismissals info, visit the Parent Portal.



Important Ways to Get Involved

ENGAGE



Attend parent-teacher conferences, POPA Welcome Dinner, events, orientations, workshops, and read the weekly Post email to keep up to date on activities.

Help out for one hour or all year long at events or in the classroom. Your gift of time and talent benefits the students in numerous ways. Also look for the POPA Community Service Days to join other families in support of our greater community.

VOLUNTEER



Your gifts provide the financial stability and flexibility for the school to take advantage of opportunities when they arise. Please participate in all fundraisers at a level that is meaningful for your family. We strive for 100% parent participation in all fundraisers.

DONATE





ENGAGE



Community-Building Events & More

The Post Oak School hosts a variety of events designed to bring families together throughout the school year.

Community Coffee

August 25

All Post Oak parents (especially new parents) are invited to gather in the Bissonnet Campus gym for refreshments and coffee. This event is a great opportunity to meet Post Oak administration, room parents, and key volunteers—make new friends and catch up with longtime ones.

POPA Family Socials

Children enjoy some playground time and parents get to meet one another!

- ♦ Elementary: Thurs., Aug. 10
- ♦ Primary: Sat., Sept. 9
- ♦ YCC: Sat., Sept. 23

Dads Club Social

September 5

Our Dads Club invites all parents to join this informal off-campus evening gathering.

POPA Welcome Dinner

September 13

Meet and mingle with other parents at this kick-off to the school year (for all parents, trustees, faculty, and staff). This adults-only event includes drinks, dinner, and great company. Watch for your invitation in the mail.

POPA Work Days & Coffee Chats begin in October (Bissonnet Campus only—see dates on next page)

Held most first Fridays starting in October. Join us for the morning work session hosted by our Parents Association chairs to help teachers with small classroom projects. Stay for the coffee chat with one of our division directors to discuss any and all things Montessori. No sign-up required—feel free to drop in!

MDC Parent Social

October 4

MDC parents are invited to the adults-only happy hour. Get to know other Middle and High School parents!

Moms Club Social

October 25

Our Moms Club invites all parents to join this informal off-campus evening gathering.

Family Fun Day & Post Oak's 60th Birthday Party! Nov. 4

Let's celebrate 60 years of Post Oak at our annual Family Fun Day, a long-standing tradition that's fun for the whole family. Enjoy the company of your fellow Bearkats with a day of great music, activities, crafts, food trucks, CAKE, and more! Free, Saturday event held at the BC.

Grand Friends Days November 16 (BC/MDC) & 17 (BC)

Grand Friends are invited to the school to share time with your child—watch The Post email for updates.

Community Service in the Gym

January 15

MLK Jr. Day is a time of service at Post Oak. There's no school that day, but the gym is open for our annual blanket making to help local non-profits. Watch The Post for other service events during the year.

POPA Coffee Social

January 24

Parents, let's get together after drop-offs to connect!

Biennial Gala

March 2

Every other year, our parents organization hosts a Gala celebration fundraiser. This year's event will be at Hotel Zaza and will include cocktails, dinner, dancing, and a silent and live auction. This along with the Post Oak Fund make up our two major fundraisers of the year.

Dads Club Poker Night

TBD

This social event raises funds to cover the cost of the spring Family Movie Night event. Whether or not you play poker, be ready for a great night out!

Book Fair

April 6

Book Fair is a family literacy event in the Bissonnet Campus gym complete with booths, activities, and lots of book fun! Parent preview is April 4.

POPA End-of-Year Community Party

May 14

All Post Oak parents, including our newest community members whose children will start in the fall, are invited to this adults-only social gathering. Join parents, faculty and staff as we raise a glass, thank our many volunteers, honor parents of our graduates, and prepare to wrap up the school year.

Commencement

May 24

Join us for the commencement of our senior class. All parents, family, alumni, and students are invited as we acknowledge the accomplishment of this class upon the completion of their Post Oak studies.

Parent Education & Workshops

Post Oak offers a wealth of parent education events to strengthen child-parent-teacher relationships. These programs and speakers focus on Montessori educational principles and practices, parenting skills, and child development issues. Details are published in the weekly Post emails prior to the events. Most parent education events offer childcare for current Post Oak Primary and Elementary children. Reservations can be made online or by contacting the front office (713-661-6688). The cost of childcare is \$5 per child and will be billed on your monthly statement.

Montessori Journey BC (YCC-EL) MDC (MS & HS)

Thurs., Sept. 21
Thurs., Sept. 28

All levels welcome at both nights. Engage with faculty, explore materials at your own pace, and dive into a variety of work in this popular hands-on event.

Coffee Chats

See dates below

Various levels

Parent Ed Events

Tues., Oct. 17 & Wed., Feb. 21

All levels. Hear from a visiting speaker or engage in an interactive presentation about education, parenting, environment, technology, or other relevant topics.

Intro to Elementary

Thurs., Nov. 9

Primary. Parents of Primary children are invited to learn more about continuing on a Montessori path into Elementary.

Lower EL transition to Upper EL

Wed., Dec. 6

Lower Elementary. Discover more at the evening session with our Elementary director and UE teachers.

Middle School (MS) Experience

Tues., Dec. 12

UE & MS. Students describe travel, community service, academics, and other aspects of MS life. UE students are encouraged to attend with their parents.

Alumni Voices

Thurs., Jan. 11 (virtual)

All levels. Hear first-hand experiences from our alumni as they return to reflect on their time at our school and how a Post Oak education prepared them for life.

Redirecting Children's Behavior

TBD

All levels. This popular class for parents is taught by Deborah Fry, Ph.D. Help your child grow in a way that enhances self-esteem, teaches responsibility, and promotes cooperation and self-mastery.



POPA Work Days & Coffee Chats

BC & MDC parents,
caregivers, grandparents,
and friends are all invited!

It's a great way to meet other Post Oak parents while helping teachers accomplish a variety of easy-to-do work for their classrooms. Stay for a chat with a division director or head of school to discuss all things Montessori.

These gatherings generally fall on the first Friday of each month at the Bissonnet Campus. Please join as often as you can!

FALL

Oct. 13
Nov. 3
Dec. 1

SPRING

Jan. 12
Feb. 2
Apr. 5

Grandparents
welcome!





VOLUNTEER



Volunteer

Many activities on The Post Oak School calendar simply would not take place without the commitment and hard work of our parent volunteers. Events such as the POPA Welcome Dinner, Book Fair, Family Fun Day, and Biennial Gala are organized by parent committees under the leadership of the Post Oak Parents Association chairs.

What is POPA?

As a parent of a Post Oak student, you are automatically a member of the Post Oak Parents Association (POPA). POPA organizes many of the community events and activities happening throughout the year. Our POPA chairs encourage all parents to sign up and start volunteering. They are happy to answer any questions about events and volunteer opportunities.

POPA Chairs

Vareen Cunningham P '24 and '26

davenvareen@yahoo.com

Rhian McKinney P '19 and '30

rhianmckinney@gmail.com

Sabina Walia P '31, '33, and '38

sabinadugal@gmail.com

Dads Club

The Post Oak Dads Club holds special events such as the annual social to get to know one another and build community.

Room Parents & Post Oak Fund Class Captains

These volunteers are also part of the POPA leadership team. For a full list of names and contact information, please see the Parent Portal under Our Community.

Volunteer Opportunities

- ♦ Assist with field trips, special events, plays, and other class projects.
- ♦ Assist with parent education programs.
- ♦ Work on community special events like Family Fun Day.
- ♦ Work in the Bissonnet Campus library, art room, or school office.
- ♦ Assist as an annual fund class captain or with other fundraising projects.
- ♦ Become a Post Oak Parent Ambassador or assist with admissions events and activities.
- ♦ Participate in beautification projects around the school.
- ♦ Introduce elements of your cultural heritage or professional expertise to your child's class. Contact the teacher to discuss your ideas.
- ♦ Serve as a room parent to provide direct support to the classroom teacher. Contact your child's teacher if you are interested.
- ♦ Join other Post Oak families for service projects throughout the Greater Houston area.
- ♦ Sign up to share your alma mater experience with a High School student interested in your school.
- ♦ Sign up to help with lunch for faculty on conference days.

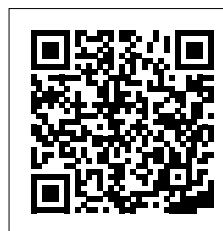
Signing Up Is Easy

Sign up on our website to volunteer for school events or other on-going projects.

POPA Coffee & Work Day (BC): Most first Fridays of the month beginning in October, POPA hosts a work day where BC and MDC parents help teachers with a variety of small tasks. Come for an hour or stay all morning. Your help is always appreciated and you'll get to meet other Post Oak moms, dads, and relatives. Grandparents are welcome!

Speak with your child's teacher about helping in the classroom: chaperoning field trips, cooking with students, helping with class events, bringing in a cultural presentation, becoming a room parent, or volunteering as a class captain for The Post Oak Fund.

Thanks for helping out!
Sign up to let us know what
activities you're interested in.



Giving

A long-term financial objective of The Post Oak School is to fully cover basic operating expenses through tuition/fee payments and earned income. At the same time, the school engages in fundraising, as do all other non-profits in Houston, to provide both financial stability and flexibility and allow Post Oak to take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

The school has two main unrestricted fundraising programs. One is the Post Oak Annual Fund and the other is the Gala, which happens in alternating years. Money raised through the two major fundraisers supports:

- ♦ the endowment;
- ♦ student financial assistance;
- ♦ teacher training and faculty development (including the sabbatical fund);
- ♦ physical and programmatic enhancements and enrichment;
- ♦ unexpected expenses;
- ♦ capital expenses.

The Post Oak Fund

Post Oak's annual fundraiser is The Post Oak Fund. These gifts are tax-deductible, and payments can be made until May 2024. Gifts may also be eligible for matching funds from employers. Reaching 100% parent participation is important as is reaching our financial goal of \$500,000. This year's fund drive will focus on improving security on both campuses (new perimeter fence at BC with electronic gates, panic buttons and intercom system at MDC, and more). It will also go toward replacing the gym floor at the BC.

Biennial Gala

Every other year, Post Oak has a Gala celebration fundraiser hosted by our parents association. This adults-only event includes dinner, dancing, silent and live auctions, and one amazing evening. It's a gala year! Join us on Saturday, March 2, 2024 at Hotel ZaZa in the Museum District.

Golf Tournament

In alternating years from our Gala, the school has started a Golf Tournament tradition! Swing into the groove of this fun spring event and meet some of our High School golf team, all while raising funds for Post Oak. This is a non-golf tournament year.

Book Fair

Help build your child's at-home library through recommended booklists created by our librarian. The school earns a percentage of all sales with funds benefiting the school's library on both campuses. Book Fair will be held in our Bissonnet Campus gym on Saturday, April 6, 2024.

Endowment

To ensure the school's long-term vitality, the board has established an endowment. By design, the corpus of the endowment will remain untouched. Its income is used to support the school's program initiatives and financial assistance. To help build the endowment, a percentage of annual giving goes into that fund. More significant building of the endowment results from major gifts. The school encourages support for the endowment from individuals and foundations, either through outright grants or through planned giving.

Major Gifts Program

The board has established a major gifts program to fund future capital projects and other strategic school needs, both facilities and program-related, and to grow the endowment.

Store Rebate Programs

The school is enrolled in rebate programs operated by Randall's and Lands' End. The more people who participate, the more money the school is able to raise. Visit our website under Give > Ways to Give.

Other Ways of Giving

You can also give to the school through planned giving vehicles, stock, insurance policies, and inclusion in your estate. If you are interested in this method of ensuring your continued support, please contact the Development Office.

All fundraising activities and acknowledgements are managed through the school's Development Office. For more information, please contact Development Director Christina Kopanidis-Cantu at 281-822-8024.

The Post Oak School is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.



DONATE



Save the date!

POST OAK PARENTS ASSOCIATION
WELCOME DINNER

Wed., September 13, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Details and invitations coming in August.

POPA Chairs: Vareen Cunningham, Rhian McKinney, & Sabina Walia

The
**POST OAK
SCHOOL**



OUR MISSION

The Post Oak School is a diverse and welcoming
Montessori community that honors and guides
lifelong learners as they create their own bold pathways
in leading purposeful lives.

Bissonnet Campus: 4600 Bissonnet Street, Bellaire, Texas 77401
Phone 713-661-6688 • Fax 713-661-4959

Museum District Campus: 1010 Autrey Street, Houston, Texas 77006
832-538-1988 • Fax 832-538-1926

www.postoakschool.org