



SOUTHWOOD ELEMENTARY

KINDERGARTEN

Here We Come!

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Mr. Casey Stouffer

Southwood Elementary Principal

Welcome to SOUTHWOOD

Welcome to Southwood Elementary! Every day we strive to accomplish our mission: "Inspiring a community of learners to discover and achieve their passion and potential." Dream Big - Work Hard. At Southwood Elementary, our students and staff focus on three goals:

- 1. Positive Environment**
- 2. Outstanding Culture**
- 3. High Levels of Achievement**

We have a well-experienced staff who loves their students and creates an excellent learning environment in which students receive a well-rounded education. Our focus is to see students improve in their academics, social/emotional development, character development, and citizenship. We also believe in the importance of extracurricular activities and that they are an extension of the classroom.

I feel very blessed and humbled to serve as principal at such a great school. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Meet Our Kindergarten Teachers

Classroom assignments are made over the summer months. When you complete your student's online registration through Skyward in July, you will be able to see the name of your child's teacher. Prior to the first day of school, we will host a Back-to-School event. At this time, your child will be able to see their classroom and connect with their teacher.



Mrs. Lisa Fadil

Mrs. Fadil began teaching in 1985-1993, then took time away to stay home with her children. In 2008, she returned to teaching, joining SES, with most of those years spent in kindergarten.

"I teach to not only see children learn and grow, but to build ongoing relationships with them -- to celebrate their accomplishments and support them when they struggle academically and emotionally. I want my students to feel safe and loved while they are in my classroom and keep that connection with them after they leave my room."



Mrs. Jane Kendall

Mrs. Kendall has been teaching since 2001 with various grade levels. She has been teaching kindergarten since the 2021-2022 school year.

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire. For many students, a passion is often ignited by an inspiring teacher. I expect to be a good teacher. I hope that I can find it within myself to be a great teacher, to inspire.... Hopefully, along the way, I can help to shape some amazing people for our future."



Mrs. Patty Steele

Mrs. Steele has been teaching since 1999, with the majority of those years with kindergarteners.

"I teach because kids need an adult in their life that they can completely trust: to let down their guard, be completely open and honest, be vulnerable, take risks while knowing that there is no judgment only support, encouragement, and guidance."

Specials

Each week your student will have a Special Class built into their school day. These classes include Art, Music, Physical Education, and Library. Our Specials Teachers are additional educators and supporters of your child's education.



Art



Mrs. Erica Tyson
tysone@msdwc.k12.in.us

Music



Mr. Matthew Schmidt
schmidt@msdwc.k12.in.us



P.E.



Mrs. Amanda Eviston
evistona@msdwc.k12.in.us

Library



Mrs. Karin Tart
tartk@msdwc.k12.in.us

Follow
Specials on
Facebook



@SouthwoodEISpecials

People to Know

You and your child will meet many staff members during their years in our school. Here are just a few that may be helpful to know from the start. Feel free to use this page to introduce your child to them before their first day.

Get to know the entire SES staff by reading their staff profiles on the SES website.



Principal



Mr. Casey Stouffer
stoufferc@msdwc.k12.in.us

Dean of Students



Mrs. Chris Stefanatos
stefanatosc@msdwc.k12.in.us

School Counselor



Mrs. Valerie Law
lawv@msdwc.k12.in.us

Kindergarten Paraprofessional



Mrs. Michelle Dupont
dupontm@msdwc.k12.in.us

Attendance Secretary



Mrs. Ashley Unger
ungera@msdwc.k12.in.us

Secretary



Mrs. Kim Weaver
weaverk@msdwc.k12.in.us

School Resource Officer



Deputy Grant Langebartels
langebartelsg@msdwc.k12.in.us

School Nurse



Mrs. Trisha Eckman
eckmant@msdwc.k12.in.us

Food Service Manager



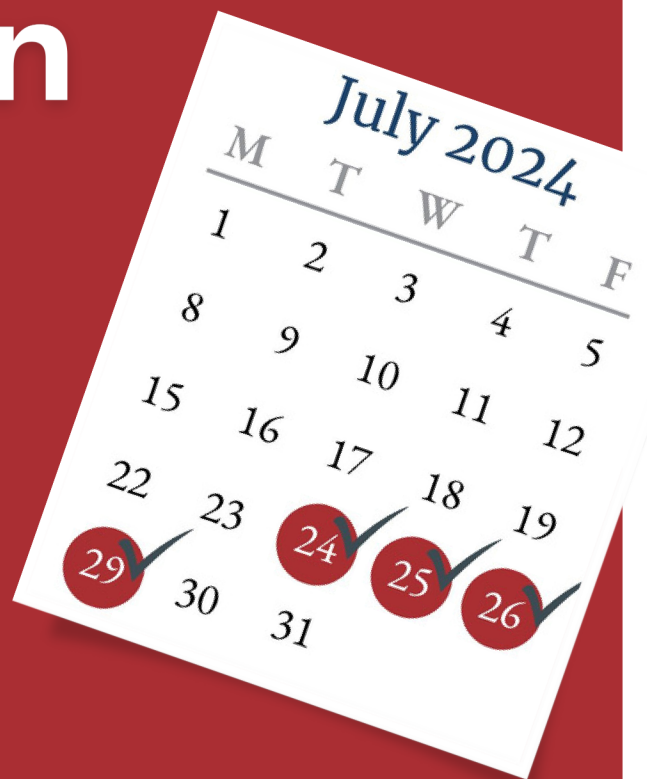
Mrs. Elizabeth Lamb
lambe@msdwc.k12.in.us

Online Registration

Each summer, all families complete online registration for each enrolling child. This ensures we have updated information, allows parents to complete all annual forms, and provides access to meal and registration payments from the comfort of home.

Even if your child participated in Kindergarten Round-Up, you must register them during online registration.

Online registration is completed through Skyward, our student management system. **Online registration will be open July 24–29, 2024.** Families who need help completing the registration process may visit Southwood Elementary on Monday, July 29 between 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM.



Skyward

Get to know our online student management system, known as Skyward. You will use Skyward for annual registrations and adding money to your student's meal account. Access Skyward through the Southwood Current Families Page at southwoodel.msdlwc.org/family.



Preparation Skills



The transition to kindergarten is respected as a major milestone not only for the child, but for their family as well. The attitude towards school and learning that the child carries with them for life is often determined by this very first experience with school. A smooth transition to kindergarten can help make sure your child is successful in school.

This list of skills is meant to help you prepare your child for their Kindergarten experience.

Personal Needs

Without help, can they...

- Put on and take off a coat
- Tie their own shoes
- Wash their hands
- Snap, button, zip, and buckle

Social Skills

Can they...

- Listen to an adult and follow simple instructions
- Cooperate with other children
- Sit for short periods of time
- Follow simple two-step directions

Intellectual Skills

Can they...

- Sit and listen to a story
- Hold a book upright and turn the pages
- Know their first and last name
- Tell and retell familiar stories
- Know colors, shapes, and sizes
- Count 0-10
- Say the ABC's
- Hold scissors and pencils appropriately
- Recognize and write their first name
 - Use capital letters for the first letter only
- Recognize the letters within their name

Special Education

Southwood Elementary School is an inclusive public school that welcomes students with a variety of learning styles, special circumstances, and diverse needs. Our team of teachers work collaboratively to ensure the best possible learning experience. By working together as a multidisciplinary team, we can create an individualized education program that meets the needs of all students. Through the Wabash-Miami Area Program, we are able to utilize services from School Psychologists, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Pathologists, a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher, as well as a Blind Low Vision Teacher.

Whether your student has been identified as having significant learning difficulties or you have concerns regarding your student's achievement, our special education team can meet with you to discuss a plan of action that supports your child in their least restrictive environment. An educational evaluation may be conducted for students suspected to have a disability that impacts their educational performance. To learn more about our program and services, please contact the school office to schedule an appointment.



Summer Learning

MSDWC believes in the importance of learning outside the classroom. Each summer, the district offers students various travel opportunities. SES Kindergarteners can join Minds In Action (MIA) Level 1. This three-day experience takes students to places in northeast Indiana such as the Fort Wayne Zoo, a local creek stomp, and even camping at Salamonie State Park. MIA sign up information is typically announced during the winter.




School Days

Traveling to School


Families can choose to have their children ride the school bus to and from school, or they can bring and pick them up.

Official Start Time – 8:25 AM



Students may begin arriving to school as early as 7:50 AM. The majority of students are present by 8:10 AM. Students who arrive at these earlier times are able to eat breakfast before class begins.

Official End Time – 3:00 PM



Students who are picked up are dismissed from class at 2:53 PM. Students riding the school bus will then be dismissed. Buses typically leave the parking lot by 3:05 PM.

What to Wear

Students should wear clothing that is appropriate for the current weather. Closed-toe shoes are encouraged for recess play, and tennis shoes are required for P.E. class.

Be sure to view the full Dress Code on page 26 of the Student Handbook.



Flip Flops
Bare Feet
Too Tight
Too Short
Pajamas
Tank Tops
Exposed Back
Hats & Sunglasses

No!

After School Care

The Wabash County YMCA offers after-school care at Southwood Elementary until 5:30 PM. Students receive healthy snacks and homework help and have the opportunity to participate in STEAM, physical health, and nutrition activities with fun mentors and certified teachers.

Learn More

wabashcountyyymca.org/before-afterschoolcare

SCHOOL BUS

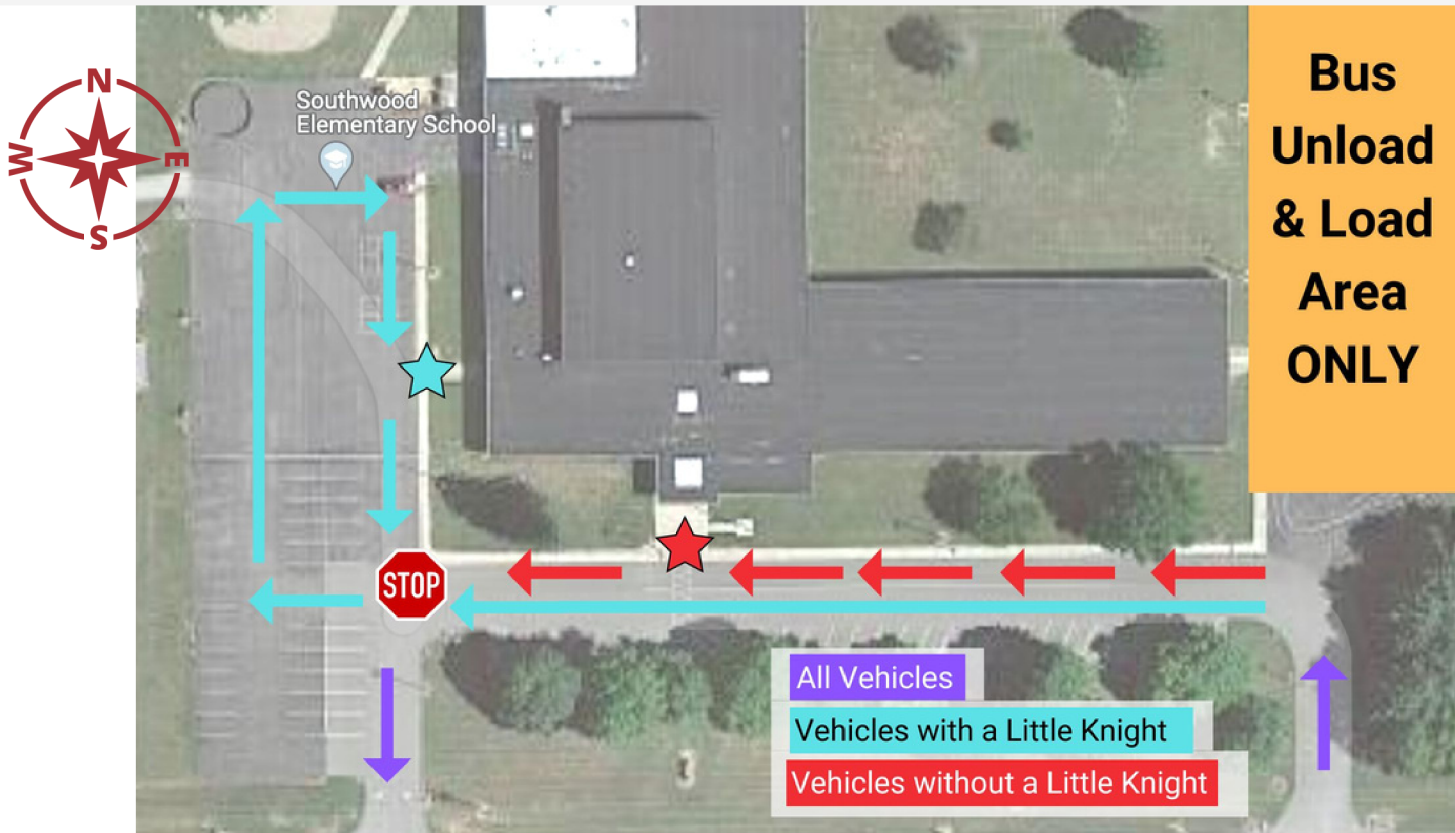
BUS ARRANGEMENTS

During online registration, parents will complete a transportation survey indicating where their child will need picked up and dropped off. Before the start of the school year, your child's bus driver will contact you to confirm your transportation plans. During this phone call, the bus driver will confirm pick-up and drop-off times. Our drivers must wait until all student registrations have been received before making their route plans, so this phone call might happen just a day or two before the start of school.

RULES FOR BUS RIDING

- Get to the pick-up location at least 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from traffic and the street.
- Stay back at least 10 feet from the road while waiting for the bus. Do not play games or run around at the bus stop.
- Be aware of the street traffic around you. Drivers of other vehicles are required to follow specific road rules concerning school buses; however, not all do.
- When you see the bus coming, form a line — do not rush to the roadway or push others to try to be the first on the bus.
- If you must cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the sidewalk or along the side of the road to a point at least five giant steps (10 feet) ahead of the bus before you cross. Be sure that the bus driver can see you, and you can see the bus driver.
- Wait until the driver motions for you to cross. Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says it is okay before stepping onto the bus.
- Use the handrails to avoid falls. When exiting the bus, be careful that clothing with drawstrings and book bags with straps are not caught in the handrails or doors.
- NEVER walk behind the bus!
- Keep items in a backpack or bag. Do not try to pick up something dropped near the bus—the bus driver may not see you. Ask the driver first.
- Respect others' property at the bus stop and on the bus.
- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk ten giant steps away from the bus before pausing.

CAR RIDERS



CAR RIDERS ARRIVAL INSTRUCTIONS

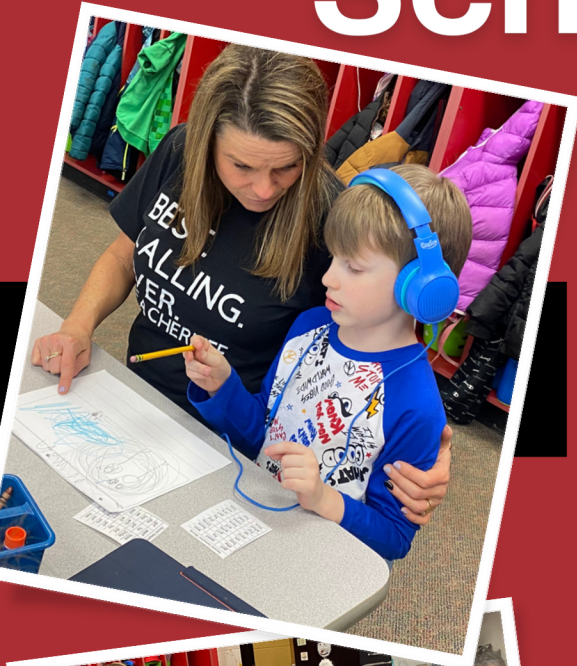
1. Arrival begins at 7:50 AM. Do not drop off any students before this time. We will not have supervision available.
2. Please do not arrive early and park along the sidewalk to wait for 7:50 AM. This creates a dangerous situation as our cars will eventually back up and stop traffic on the highway. If you arrive early, park in the parking lot near the softball diamond (west side) and wait. Please do not park along the west sidewalk. That sidewalk area is reserved for Little Knights drop-off only. If you do park, once you see staff going to the sidewalk to greet cars, either walk your student to the sidewalk or circle back to the entrance and get in the line forming in our drop-off lane.
3. Please ensure that your student(s) is/are ready to exit the vehicle promptly with all needed materials when the vehicle comes to a stop. This will make for a quick exit and keep our traffic flowing.
4. Students should exit the vehicle on the side closest to the sidewalk.
5. When exiting the drop-off lane, check for pedestrians and other vehicles before you proceed.
6. Students arriving from 7:50–8:05 AM will report to the cafeteria.
7. Those car riders who need breakfast will report directly to the cafeteria to begin eating as soon as they arrive. Breakfast service begins at 7:50 AM.
8. Students are considered tardy if they are not in their seats, ready to begin the day at 8:25 AM.



CAR RIDERS DISMISSAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Parents walking up to the doors for pick-up will not be admitted into the building. Dismissal will begin at 2:55 PM. Grades K-5 will be dismissed at the main entrance (door #1), and Little Knights and their siblings will be dismissed at the west entrance (door #12). Car riders will be waiting near their entrance with adult supervision.
2. Please park in the parent parking lot and walk to your child's pick-up entrance.
3. If your child's pick-up location is at the main entrance, you may park along the front sidewalk east of the main door if there is room. **DO NOT BLOCK THE BUS ENTRANCE!**
4. Handicapped individuals who need special assistance at dismissal need to call the office and make arrangements. Please wait until 3:10 PM to arrive, as most of our pick-up traffic will be gone, making it easier for you.
5. Parents (or the adult approved for pick-up) will be greeted by a staff member.
6. Identify yourself to the staff member and tell them whom you are picking up.
- 7. Have your photo ID available.**
8. The staff member will tell the inside supervisor that your child is ready for pickup.
9. Parents should stand away from the doors and other families so the children can safely exit the building and find their adult.
10. To optimize parking spaces, promptly exit the parking lot after picking up your student(s).
11. Please do not feel like you must pick up right at 2:55 PM. If some parents choose to wait until closer to 3:05-3:10 PM, it will help avoid congestion.
12. Children who are not picked up by 3:15 PM will move to the office, and the adult picking up will need to ring into the office to get them.
13. Please remember that the school office closes at 3:30 PM.

School Supplies



Usually available in May, the SES school supplies list will be posted on the SES Families page at southwoodel.msdlwc.org/family. An email with school supply information will also be sent to families. Supplies can be brought to the Back-to-School event, which is typically scheduled a couple of days before the start of the school year. This ensures that students have everything they need from the very start.



Student iPads

Our school district is a one-to-one district, which means each student is provided with an electronic device to assist their learning. Our students currently have iPads, which will be distributed during the first weeks of school. It is very important to help your child take care of their iPad and fully charge it each evening at home.



School Meals

Breakfast and lunch are available to all students through our Food Service Department. Families may choose to eat the school lunch or pack their own lunch. Monthly menus are sent home with each student and posted on the website. Students may choose between the main meal option each day or a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The price for meals is typically established during the summer. Price information will be available at msdwc.org/services/food.



Student meal accounts can be managed electronically. Email notifications will be sent to you whenever your student's meal balance is low. To add money to your student's meal account, start by logging into Skyward Family Access.

Once in Skyward:

1. Go to Food Service
2. Make a payment (key is next to name)
3. Select one time payment or set up auto replenish
4. Put in dollar amount
5. Add to cart
6. Check out

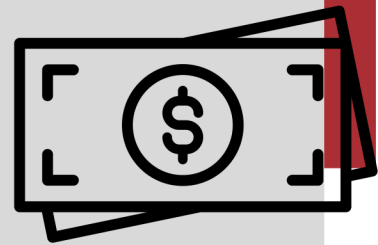
View Meal Menus



Free & Reduced Meals

Families may qualify for free or reduced meal prices based on their income and household size. Be sure to check the current federal eligibility guidelines to see if your family qualifies. If you qualify, it is very important to complete the Free & Reduced Application during student registration. Applying could also help with the cost of textbooks and it gives the school district important reporting data.

Please apply if you qualify.



Health Policies



When to Stay Home

Students should be kept home when they cannot participate in the classroom. Symptoms that would prevent this would be fever, diarrhea, vomiting, eye drainage, communicable illness, etc. **Students should be fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication before returning to school.**

Check out more information about our Health Services at msdwc.org/services/health.

Medicine at School

If it is necessary to give medication at school either daily or as needed, a parent's signature is required. Forms are available at school. All medication must be in the small original bottle with label instructions and transported by an adult.

Screenings

The Indiana State Department of Health requires vision screening in grades K, 1, 3, 5, & 8. Nurses will also do any vision referrals. Hearing screens are done by Wabash-Miami Area Program staff in grades K, 1, 4, 7, & 10.

Scan Here



Absence

If a student is not physically present in school, they are absent. There are two kinds of absences: excused and unexcused. Excused absences include:

- ✓ Personal Illness
- ✓ Medical Appointment
- ✓ Court Appointment
- ✓ Death in Family
- ✓ Religious Observances
- ✓ Prearranged Absence

Reporting an Absence

Call the school office at 260-569-6859 by 9:00 AM on the same day as the absence. Be sure to state the reason for the absence. Voicemail is available 24 hours a day. Email will NOT be accepted since we cannot verify the sender. Late arrivals/early dismissals should be called by 9:00 AM. Failure to notify the school or the lack of a legitimate excuse will result in an unexcused absence.

Appointment Confirmation Statement

When students miss school for an appointment, an official statement from the appointment should be turned in to the school office for the absence to be excused. Please request these from the doctor, dentist, or other provider before returning to school.

Tardy

Students reporting late to school are tardy. Tardy students must stop in the school office for clearance before proceeding to class.

View the full Attendance Policy in the Student Handbook on Page 23.



Immunizations

Students must meet the immunization requirements outlined by the Indiana Department of Health. Parents must provide immunization record documents to the school. Documentation may include:

- Records from a healthcare provider
- Immunization record from another school or corporation
- Immunization record in CHIRP – Indiana's immunization registry
- Printed record from another state registry

The documentation must include the date (month/day/year) for each dose of vaccine administered. In addition, we recommend students complete a physical and dental exam.



Immunization Guide

The Indiana Department of Health requirements and recommendations regarding school immunizations are as follows:

GRADES	REQUIRED	RECOMMENDED
Preschool	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 Hepatitis B• 4 DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis)• 3 Polio• 1 Varicella (Chickenpox)• 1 MMR (Measles, Mumps & Rubella)• 2 Hepatitis A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual influenza
K – Grade 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 Hepatitis B• 5 DTaP• 4 Polio• 2 Varicella• 2 MMR• 2 Hepatitis A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual influenza• COVID-19

Delays & Cancellations



When school must be delayed or canceled, you will be notified by an automated call and text message. Your contact information in Skyward will be used for these notifications. It is your responsibility to ensure this information is up-to-date.

- On a normal day, it will be announced by 6:30 AM if we are delaying and/or closing.
- Following a delay, it will be announced by 8:30 AM if schools will be closing.
- Automated phone and email contacts are sent within 15 minutes of a delay and/or cancellation.
- Delays, cancellations, and/or early dismissals will also be communicated via the school and district websites, along with Facebook and Twitter.

View the full Closing & Delay policy by scanning here.



SCHOOL DISTRICT

Southwood Elementary is a part of the MSD of Wabash County school district. MSDWC, as we often refer to it, educates around 2,300 students throughout six schools and an online credit recovery program. With over 300 employees it is one of the largest employers in Wabash County, and was voted the 2023 Best Place to Work in Wabash County. As a member of the MSDWC family, you will hear our motto a lot -

Dream Big. Work Hard.



We encourage you to explore our district information and resources at **msdwc.org**. MSDWC Superintendent, Mr. Mike Keaffaber, along with the other district leaders welcome your communication, so feel free to reach out.



MSD of Wabash County

2024-2025 District Calendar

2024

July

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

August

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

September

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

October

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

November

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

December

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

2025

January

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

February

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

March

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

April

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

May

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

June

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

● Important Date ● School Closed ● School Closed for Students/Teacher Work Day

Canceled days will be made up by eLearning (asynchronous or synchronous) and/or using make-up days depending when canceled. Professional Development Days and the Parent/Teacher Day will be a no school day with an approved 1003 Flexibility Waiver from the Indiana State Board of Education.

1st Semester

JULY

24-29 Online Registration Open
29 Onsite Registration -
Elementary Only 10 am-6 pm

AUGUST

5 First Teacher Day (AM Only)
6 Teacher Work Day
7 First Student Day

SEPTEMBER

2 No School - Labor Day
13 No School - Staff Professional Development

OCTOBER

4 End of 1st 9 Weeks (41 days)
10 No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences & Professional Development
14-18 No School - Fall Break

NOVEMBER

27-29 No School - Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

20 End of 2nd 9 weeks (46 days) & End of semester (87 days)
23-Jan 3 No School - Christmas Break

2nd Semester

JANUARY

6 School Resumes
20 No School - MLK Day/Make-up Day

FEBRUARY

17 No School - Presidents' Day/Make-up Day

MARCH

14 No School - Staff Professional Development, End of 3rd 9 Weeks (47 days)
28 - Apr 4 No School - Spring Break

APRIL

Mar 28 - 4 No School - Spring Break

MAY

22 Last Student Day, End of 4th 9 weeks (43 days) & End of semester (90 days)
23 Teacher Record Day

JUNE

1 Southwood Commencement 2 pm
1 Northfield Commencement 5 pm

Adopted by the Board of School Trustees
on November 14, 2023

School Counselor

Hello and welcome!

My name is Valerie Law, and I am the School Counselor at Southwood Elementary School. This is my 32nd year in education. I thoroughly enjoy being a part of the Southwood Elementary family. Helping children to deal with various problems effectively and inspiring them to do their personal best in their daily lives are some of my biggest joys.

A Little Spot of Emotion, written by Diane Alber, is a series of books I use to teach kids about emotions. Once we get started next year, you might start hearing about "Scribble Spot." He is the "Spot" that teaches us that sometimes we can get all tangled up with our emotions. When this happens, we feel frustrated or confused. Being able to identify our emotions is vital. We begin with the emotions of peace, anger, sadness, anxiety, love, happiness, and confidence.



My role at Southwood Elementary also includes helping to put families in touch with needed services and resources. This can be anything from writing referrals to counseling agencies to assisting with coats and clothing. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

I look forward to meeting each of you and getting to know you and your child!

Sincerely,

Valerie Law



zzzzzz

Is your child getting enough sleep?

A full night's sleep is crucial to a child's success at school. Not enough sleep may result in problems with behavior, attention, and learning. Please set a bedtime that sets your child up for success.

**4 - 12
Months**

**12 - 16 hours of sleep per 24
Hours (including naps)**

**1 - 2
Years**

**11 - 14 hours of sleep per 24
Hours (including naps)**

**3 - 5
Years**

**10 - 13 hours of sleep per 24
Hours (including naps)**

**6 - 12
Years**

**9 - 12 hours of sleep per 24
hours**

**13 - 18
Years**

**8 - 10 hours of sleep per 24
hours**

School Safety

Locked Doors

All exterior and interior classroom doors are locked at all times at Southwood Elementary. This policy ensures an extra layer of security, and follows the best practices for school safety.

Emergency Drills

Southwood conducts monthly fire drills, one severe weather drill, and one lockdown drill per semester. We partner with local first responders, who are often present during these drills.

Safety Specialist

Safety Specialists are school staff members who have yearly training in school safety. They lead emergency drills and provide guidance to other staff in emergency situations. Southwood Elementary exceeds state requirements by having three School Safety Specialists.

Student Pick-Up Policy

During student registration, the guardian will list the adults with permission to pick up the student from school. If someone other than those listed individuals needs to pick up the child, the guardian must notify the school office beforehand. That person must produce a state-issued ID when they pick the student up.

If someone tries to pick up a student without the guardian's permission, the school will not release the child to them, and the guardian will be immediately contacted.

Visitor & Volunteer Screening

Everyone entering Southwood Elementary is checked in using the Raptor Technologies Visitor Management system. Raptor screens all new visitors via their government ID before they can enter. Visitors are then issued a visitor pass that they must return upon their departure.

Volunteers must also submit to and pass a background check before they can volunteer in our schools. Background checks can take up to a week to complete.



Hello, I'm Deputy Grant

I am a full-time deputy with the Wabash County Sheriff's Department. When school is in session, I spend my days serving as the School Resource Officer (SRO) for Southwood Elementary.

I have been in law enforcement since 2016, but I also have a bachelor's degree in K-12 physical education. Being an SRO allows me to combine my passion for working with students with my career as a deputy.

I want our students to feel safe in their schools and also give them a positive experience with law enforcement. You will often see me hanging out with students in the lunch room or on the playground as relationship-building is a vital part of my role.

The partnership between MSDWC and the WCSD gives our SROs fantastic training and resources to provide the best school security to our students and staff.

PTO Parent/Teacher Organization

The Southwood Elementary PTO believes that everyone plays a unique role when it comes to the education experience of SES students.

Students

We support students by working in collaboration with teachers on large events such as our annual Read-a-thon and Spring Carnival, and in smaller ways such as providing classroom incentives and fundraiser prizes.

Staff

We think it is important to make sure that all SES teachers and staff feel appreciated. We have provided every teacher with volunteer support, in and out of the classroom. This can be in the form of small take-home projects like stapling papers or coming in to volunteer in person. We regularly check in with our teachers to see if there are any ways the PTO can be helpful.

Families

We are always looking for ways to support SES families. We help if there is a specific need to be met, we extend a welcome to new SES families and we help organize Family Fun Night Events.

The PTO meets every other Wednesday in the SES cafeteria and we have an active Facebook page where we post frequent updates about the things happening within our organization. If you are interested in learning more about our growing PTO, we would love to hear from you!

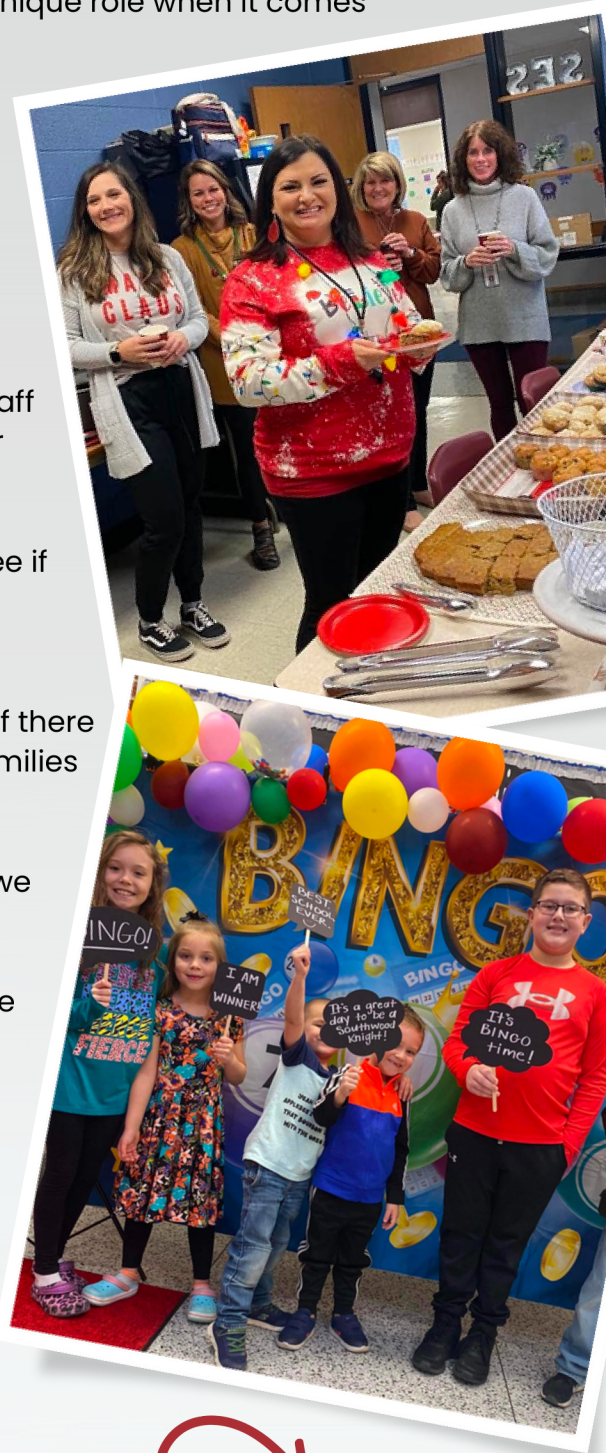
Message us on Facebook: Search for Southwood Elementary PTO

Or email me directly at bjcombs1421@gmail.com.

I look forward to meeting each of you during the year and seeing many new faces at our meetings and events during the upcoming school year!

Sincerely,

Beth Combs
Southwood Elementary PTO President



Follow Us on Facebook



BoxTops

Do you remember BoxTops? You would cut off the tops of your grocery boxes and send them to your school, and they'd earn .10 per BoxTop.

BoxTops are now digital and the SES PTO uses BoxTops as a primary fundraiser for our schools. Please scan your digital or physical receipts into the BoxTops app and earn money for our school.

Did you know...

**BOX TOPS
ARE NOW
DIGITAL!**

Seriously!
No. More. Clipping.

✓ Download the app

✓ Select Southwood
Elementary (in Wabash!)

✓ Scan your receipts and earn
money for our school!



It's really that easy!

Thank you for your support!

Parent to Parent

The morning I sent my twins off to their first day of kindergarten will forever live in my memory. Something about that day felt like a monumental shift in all our lives – certainly for them as students, but also for me as a mother. Let's just say that day brought up all the mama feels – joy, sadness, excitement, anxiousness – it was a roller coaster!

Although I do not know how you are feeling about your child starting this new venture, whatever the emotions, I am here to say that you are not alone.

After that first day, I soon experienced a consistent reassurance that **Southwood Elementary is a place filled with people who keep my children safe, excite their educational curiosity, encourage healthy peer relationships, and genuinely love them.**

Kindergarten was a year filled with immense educational and social growth for my kids. They truly love being at school, and as a family we love being a part of the Southwood community. This place is rare and special, and I am so glad you've chosen to be a part of it.

Welcome to the Southwood family!

Laura Langebartels (aka Braya and Colt's Mom)



Spread the Good



A fantastic culture already exists at Southwood Elementary, and that is due to families, staff, and students who contribute in positive ways. It is so important that we all continue to build upon that positive culture through our words and actions.

Additionally, we want to bring more students and parents into our school family. You, our current families, are our best and most essential advertisements.



Ways to Promote Our School

1

Leave a Positive Online Review

Parents often do online research before choosing a school for their child. Consider leaving a positive review about Southwood on Facebook, Niche, or Yelp.

2

Show Off Your School Swag

Whether you wear a Southwood t-shirt to the store, or put an SES car magnet on your vehicle, you support our schools by displaying our name throughout the community.

3

Engage with Our Social Media

When you **Like**, **Comment**, or best of all **Share** our social media posts, more people will be able to see the great things happening at our schools.

4

Tell People About Your Experience

Word-of-mouth is the most trusted and powerful way to spread the positive messages of our school. Telling your friends, family, and neighbors about your positive experiences with Southwood is the best way to support us and spread the good.

Follow Along!

Southwood Elementary and our partners are active on social media. Be sure to 'Like' and 'Follow' these accounts. To see more content, mark these accounts as your favorites. Remember, the more our community engages with our posts (likes, shares, comments), the more people will see the great things happening in our schools.



Facebook

@SouthwoodElementary
@SouthwoodElSpecials
@SouthwoodKnights
@MSDWabashCounty



Instagram

@MSDWabashCounty
@shs_knight_life

Family Page

southwoodel.msdlwc.org/family

The Southwood Elementary Family webpage is a great informational reference for a variety of information our families need throughout the year. Here you will find the full student handbook. Be sure to check out this page and refer back as need.



SHOP SES

Stock up on Southwood apparel through our online store. Purchases help support the school.

southwoodel.msdlwc.org/shop

Welcome to

SES



260-569-6859



260-569-6842



southwoodel.msdlwc.org