

A+ School of Excellence

Office: 623-547-3200

Office Hours: 7:15am - 3:30pm

School Hours: 7:40-2:25

Dear Panther Nation,

We are proud to welcome you to the 2024-2025 school year as part of our Panther Family! As we prepare for your child's school experience, we wanted to share some important information to ensure a safe and pleasant start to our school year. Please read through the following important information with your child. We want you and your child to have an outstanding year!

Our school hours are 7:40am to 2:25pm. Gates open at 7:15am and close at 2:30pm. Students will not be allowed on campus before or after those times as there is no supervision. On the first day of school, students will report directly to their homeroom classroom unless they choose to eat breakfast in our cafeteria. After the first day, students will go to the playground (grades 1-5) or the cafeteria. Kindergarten does not have morning recess. Morning recess for Kindergarten will begin after Labor Day.

Our PTO will hold a Boo-Hoo breakfast for families on the first day of school in the cafeteria at ~7:40am.

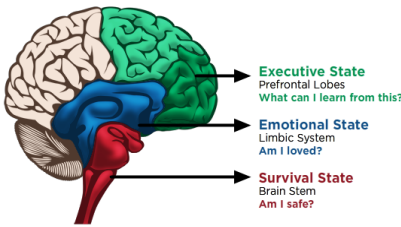
Please read this information carefully as it details all of the things that you will need to know to get your child ready for the school year. Class supply lists are on our website. Supply lists are the same for every class currently so if you have a 4th grader, you can look at any of the lists. Once the students are placed in classes, your child's teacher may send a more specific request list home the first week of school. Classroom rosters will be posted outside of the campus (on the windows) on Tuesday, July 30th at 3:00pm. Open House will be held 4pm-6pm on July 30th. Thank you for your patience with class lists as we have changes with our district boundaries and students enrolling daily. .

CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE

Mabel Padgett Elementary School implements a model called Conscious Discipline that is used in each school in the Litchfield Elementary School District. Conscious Discipline is based on a Brain State Model that empowers us to create a culture of learning based on safety, connection, and problem solving. Conscious Discipline utilizes a neurodevelopmental model to help focus our attention on internal states first, and behavior second. Addressing the internal state that precedes the behavior, individuals learn to self-regulate and develop strong executive skills for problem solving and goal achievement.

Conscious Discipline provides an effective metaphor for educational institutions. The School Family is built on a healthy family model with the goal of providing optimal development for all it's members. The School Family builds connections that foster the following:







- Impulse control through co-regulation skills
- Cooperation and willingness to learn through a sense of belonging
- Executive skills through modeling, scaffolding and direct teaching
- Routines- how we teach behavior expectations in our classrooms and school
- Rituals- expressions of unity
- Classroom Structures- the ultimate goal of the School Family is to provide a learning environment where all members (adult and children) spend more time in an executive state than not.

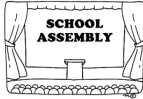






MPE MISSION, VALUES, AND EXPECTATIONS

Our Motto at Mabel is: Model, Achieve, Believe, Excel and Learn...that's the Panther way and I live it everyday.

Our school-wide expectations are that all members of our Panther Family are Respectful, Responsible, and Safe. Thank you, ahead of time, for your help in supporting these expectations. Please review our expectations with your children prior to school starting. Thank you for partnering with us in order to have a successful school year!

	PANTHER BEHAVIOR Be Responsible	PANTHER BEHAVIOR Be Respectful	PANTHER BEHAVIOR Be Safe
Campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow staff directions the first time Go quickly and quietly to your destination Use the crosswalk Walk wheeled devices on campus Follow the designated rules for that area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep our campus clean Speak quietly and kindly Use the appropriate noise level for that area Respect all hallway displays Open doors for others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay attention to cars at pick up and drop off Enter and exit the classroom in a straight and quiet line Be alert Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself Use walking feet
Restroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do your business in the toilet Flush toilet paper in toilet Use only the paper you need Use the restroom, wash hands and return to class quickly Tell an adult if the restroom needs attention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect others personal space and privacy Keep restroom clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the facilities correctly Walk into and out of the restroom Be quick and quiet
Playground "When you hear the whistle blow, grab your things and go" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use your problem solving strategies (STEP): Say the problem, Think of Solutions, Explore consequences, Pick the Best Solution Report unsafe behavior to an adult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use kind words to others Show sportsmanship by following MPE rules When the whistle blows, STOP and line up Return all equipment appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use safe hands and feet Use equipment properly Be alert
Walkways Quiet Zone (QZ) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go directly to your destination Respect the learning of others, Voices off Walk only Keep hands, feet and objects to self 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Let younger students go first Speak kindly Friendly face, silent wave Open doors for others Respect all displays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay attention when walking Walk on the right side of the sidewalk in a single line
Cafeteria "It's time to eat, less talking more eating" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean hands before eating Use your time for eating Stay in your seat and wait for permission to get up Keep our cafeteria clean (leave nothing behind, clean your area) Wait quietly for your teacher at dismissal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter and exit quietly Use quiet, inside voice Wait patiently in line and accept your place in line Use table manners Eat and touch only your food Be courteous to all staff and students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter and exit in a straight, quiet line Make healthy choices

<p>Assembly</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter and exit quietly in a straight line • Remain seated, criss-cross and in your designated area • Follow staff directions • Be a positive role model • Stay with your class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be polite and use appropriate noise level • Voices off with eyes on speaker and actively listen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hands, feet and objects to self • Use walking feet
<p>Office/ Nurse</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet voices • Go directly to your destination • Listen and follow directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect hallway displays • Wait patiently and quietly • Be polite when speaking • Open doors for others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay attention when walking
<p>Classroom <i>Toe Check</i> to discourage tattling ("How could you help them?")</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter and exit classroom quietly • Follow all classroom procedures • Be a positive role model • Have materials ready • Complete work on time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow others to have different ideas and opinion • Be cooperative • Actively listen when others are speaking • Raise hand • Wait your turn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep hands, feet and objects to self • Sit safely • Use school supplies for the designated purpose • Share supplies • Put things where they belong
<p>Library</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter and exit library quietly • Return borrowed books when scheduled • Follow all directions and procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively listen during read aloud • Quiet voices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use walking feet • Keep hands feet and objects to self
<p>Bus/ Dismissal & Pick up</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let your bus driver know if someone is being bullied • Encourage others to walk • Return lost items to bus driver • Sit in your assigned seat • Keep aisles clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greet your bus driver • Use kind words • Use quiet voices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk bikes, scooters, and feet

MABEL PADGETT is known as an open and friendly campus where parents are always welcome.

We truly value you and want you to feel welcome when you come to eat lunch or volunteer in your child's classroom. However, due to recent tragedies in schools around the nation, Mabel Padgett has a Closed Campus Policy so that we can more easily identify adults on our campus and their reasons for being here. Having a closed campus increases the safety and security of your child by minimizing the number of people on campus.

Students will enter campus through one of the 3 gates; the **front gate** by the office/kindergarten playground, the **fire lane gate** at parent drop off on Falcon Drive and the **bus lane gate** near the playground. Adults will not be allowed to enter through the gates, and must enter the front office, show their i.d. and sign in.

Celebrating Student Birthdays at Mabel Padgett: Room Parents/Teachers will coordinate and observe birthdays once a month, usually at the end of the month. We will recognize students on their individual birthdays but limit class celebrations to one per month. In August we will celebrate July & August birthdays and in May we will celebrate May & June birthdays. We try to limit the amount of sugary sweet treats brought into the classroom in order to promote health/wellness, protect instructional time, be sensitive to food allergies, limit expenses to parents, and promote equity. For example, on Valentine's Day, we go with red themed treats like apples & strawberries, or non-food items. Valentine's Day falls at the same time as our Mabel Marathon so we have a unique opportunity to reinforce what our students learn about healthy eating from Coach Wall. Birthday parties and balloons are not allowed during lunchtime.

Mabel Padgett's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO): Our family and community involvement makes us unique and sets us apart from other schools. It's free to join. Please support our PTO....they do amazing things

for our students & staff! Also, spiritwear will be on sale throughout the year! If you have any questions re: our PTO, please reach out to our board:

Kerrie Zakaras: president.mpepto@gmail.com

Brandi Carter: treasurer.mpepto@gmail.com

Stephanie Colindres: vicepres.mpepto@gmail.com

Michelle Voss: secretary.mpepto@gmail.com

COMMUNICATION

As always, we will do everything to guarantee the safety of everyone at Mabel Padgett Elementary. It is imperative that you, as parents/guardians, and your child communicate with us if you feel you have any knowledge that will help us intervene before a situation arises that may compromise the safety or health of a student. Weekly communication is sent home on Friday afternoons from Principal Willis to all families.

Also, if you have a question or concern regarding your child's academic/behavior status, as a professional courtesy, please contact the teacher prior to contacting administration to discuss the concern.

In order to communicate with you in the most effective manner, we suggest you follow the steps listed below:

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Contact Homeroom Teacher	Contact Behavior Coach (behavior concerns), Ms. Girvan Contact Instructional Coach (academic concerns), Mrs. Troy	Contact Principal Willis

1. **School Website:** Please visit our new website at MPE. On our website, you will find general school information, a letter from the Principal, suggested supplies for each grade level, contact information for your child's teachers, nurse updates, upcoming school events, and news from our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and much more!

2. **Facebook:** Stay connected with us on Facebook. Our page will showcase the amazing things taking place on campus, recognize staff and students, showcase student work, as well as provide up-to-date information regarding events or important information.

<https://www.facebook.com/mabelpadgettelementary>

<https://www.facebook.com/MabelPadgettElementarySchoolPto>

TRANSPORTATION

You can visit the Transportation webpage at our district website www.lesd79.org to gather more information about bus transportation. If your child is walking to and from school, you can read our comprehensive Safe Route to Schools document found on our webpage.

EZRouting Registration Portal/BusQuest Application



EZ Routing-Opt-In Link



BusQuest- iPhone



BusQuest- Android

SCHOOL SAFETY

Important components of school safety at Mabel Padgett Elementary for students, families, and staff:

- Students and families utilize designated crosswalks and avoid walking through moving traffic or pick up lines
- Drivers stop prior to crosswalks when children are present and wait for the crossing guard to signal cars to move through
- School gates are closed and locked during school hours
- All classroom doors are locked at all times
- Front office doors are locked
- All visitors and/or volunteers must check in and out through the front office
 - The school has the authority to not allow visitors on campus at their discretion
- After volunteer applies and is approved, volunteer opportunities must be pre-arranged with the classroom teacher and communicated to the front office prior to volunteering
- Evacuation/fire drills completed once per month
- Lockdown drills completed with Goodyear Police Department at least 2 times per year
- Bus evacuation drills completed at least 2 times per year
- Staff participate in safety protocols and training throughout the school year

ATTENDANCE STANDARDS

The education of our students is extremely important, and being in class is vital to their academic success. School attendance is not only a good habit, state law requires it. Arizona State Law (15-802.E, 15-803.) requires every person who has custody of a child between the ages of six and sixteen years shall make sure the child attends school for the full time school is in session, unless unable to attend due to illness or another legitimate reason.

To encourage and improve school attendance, Litchfield Elementary School District has implemented a truancy program in partnership with Maricopa County Juvenile Court. **This truancy program is called C.U.T.S. (Court Unified Truancy Suppression).** We will be tracking attendance very closely. We appreciate your cooperation in this very important matter. Remember, kids who attend school more often will learn more!

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

We will expect our students to develop strong study habits, take responsibility, and have pride in their academic efforts. A strong partnership is the best recipe for our students' success. Therefore, you have the right to expect the best from us! We hope you will partner with us to bring out the best in our students.

- **Supplies** - Being prepared and organized is essential to educational success. The most important supplies are: pencils, pens, loose leaf paper, spiral notebooks, a binder, and a backpack. See Suggested Supply Lists on our school website. Teachers will give you more information about specific supplies during the first days of school.

BEHAVIOR STANDARDS

Click [HERE](#) to view student handbook and discipline matrix

In our student handbook/agenda, there is a discipline rubric that is followed. Students who choose to interrupt the learning environment will be subject to disciplinary action. Please read and review the student handbook with your student.

HEALTH EXPECTATIONS

- **Monitoring Health:** Students experiencing any flu like symptoms other illnesses are required to stay home. This includes but is not limited to: fever of 100+ degrees should stay home, muscle or body aches, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, headaches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.
- **Masks: Optional for staff and students**
- **Immunizations:** Please make sure that your child is up to date on ALL immunizations. If you received shots over the summer, please bring those records in to the nurse on or before the first day of school.
- **Medicine:** All medicine (including cough drops) must be brought into the nurse's office in its original packaging.
- **Water:** Students should bring a reusable water bottle to school each day. Students can refill their bottles at lunch time at the water bottle fountain or in their classrooms. Use of water fountains, as designed, will not be permitted. We are asking for water donations again this year. Please drop off any donation to the front office.

Our school and district will continue to take precautions to provide a clean and safe environment for our staff and students, this includes but is not limited to: hand-sanitizing stations in each classroom, cleaning of classrooms, cleaning of shared materials (books, math manipulatives, etc.).

Technology

To prepare students for the unprecedented opportunities that await citizens of the 21st century, Litchfield Elementary School District recognizes that a thorough understanding of technology is essential for extraordinary learning opportunities.

Educational technology, thoughtfully and appropriately applied, will enhance not only the learner-centered experiences of all students, but also the professional growth of Litchfield Elementary School District's faculty and staff. Integrating technology into the classroom environment can transform student learning experiences and increase opportunities for students to think critically, work collaboratively, be creative, and communicate in today's society.

All Litchfield Elementary School District schools operate in a tech-rich environment with all K-8 students offered a 1:1 device. The availability of one-to-one student devices allows teachers to design learning experiences using e-textbooks and curriculum with embedded links, video, 3D graphics, simulations, collaborative publishing, and instant access to reference information.

IMPORTANT PARKING INFORMATION

Please review the procedures below to help us maintain student safety at all times. The parking lot on Falcon Drive is called the Falcon Express Lane and the parking lot on Turney is referred to as the Front Parking Lot.

- **Falcon Express Lane in the morning:** The parent drop-off parking lot is located on Falcon Drive. When dropping off in the morning, pull all the way forward to drop off your student. They can walk back to the fire lane and go through the gates. **Those gates close at 7:35.** If the gates are closing, pull all the way forward and drop your student off so they can then walk across the front of campus and go through the front gates which close at 7:40.
- **Falcon Express Lane in the afternoon for parent pick-up:** The parking spaces are for staff only. Teachers will be on duty to direct traffic and load cars. We will have 2 lanes again this year for afternoon pick up. Grades 1-3 will be in lane #1 (closest to school), Grades 4-5 will be in lane #2 (closest to Falcon). If a student has a younger sibling, please pick up in the younger sibling's lane. We ask that parents pull all the way forward to the farthest open pickup space. We will direct your child to go to these spaces. This will help in loading as many students as we can at one time. If a vehicle stops at space #4 and there are open spaces at #1-3, the line tends to slow down. If at all possible, the best door for your child to use is a passenger side door. This alleviates a possible unsafe walk into the driving lane on the driver's side of the car. Please review with your child your car color and type. Always pull forward and for your child's safety, have them enter through a passenger side door. With your assistance in this process, we hope to make everyone's experience more positive and efficient.
- **The Family lot on Turney Ave. (Front of school)** is for Developmental Prek, PreK, and Kindergarten parents, as well as parents of our students in our specialized program (Mrs. Espinoza, Ms. Howlett, Mrs. Czechowski) These classroom parents are asked to park and walk students to/from campus.
- Never drop off students in the middle of this parking lot. If you just want to drop off and not park, then use the Falcon Express Lane. If you have older students please use the Express Lane on Falcon. Parking along the red curb/fire lane is a violation of Goodyear Fire Department rules and could result in a ticket.
- All cars must park in a parking space. Turn RIGHT when leaving the Turney lot, this helps keep the traffic flow moving. We have many parents who cross with their children in the middle of the parking lot causing safety and traffic issues.
- ****Please use the crosswalk in front of the office at all times****
- Traffic is heaviest in the parking lots and around campus between 7:30-7:40 and 2:15-2:35. Arriving before 7:30 will help make dropping your student off much easier/quicker in the morning.

Grade	Lunch	Recess
PK/Kinder	10:00-10:20	10:20-10:40
1st	10:25-10:45	10:45-11:05
2nd	10:50-11:10	11:10-11:30
3rd	11:15-11:35	11:35-11:55
4th	11:40-12:00	12:00-12:20
5th	12:05-12:25	12:25-12:45

Thank you, ahead of time, for paying attention to these important instructions. The safety of our students is most important.

FOOD SERVICES

LUNCH ACCOUNTS

With the end of the USDA Universal Meal Program, LESD is not able to provide free meals for any student during the 2024-2025 school year who have not applied and qualified for a free or reduced rate. We strongly

encourage all families to apply for the Free and Reduced Meal Benefits Program. Applications for the 2024-2025 school year will be available and processed after July 1, 2024.

Breakfast and lunch pricing for the 2024-2025 school year:

	Student Complete Meal	Student 2nd Complete Meal	A La Carte Entree	A La Carte Side	Milk/Juice /Water	Adult Meal
Breakfast	\$1.90	\$2.15	\$1.65	\$0.95	\$0.70	\$3.05
Lunch	\$3.15	\$3.65	\$2.65	\$0.95	\$0.70	\$4.95

SIMPLIFY LIFE: Make your school lunch payments online. Go to:

<https://www.lesd79.org/departments/food-services> Click: Online Meal Payment.

TAX CREDIT

Tax credit is a win-win combination! You can donate up to \$200 as an individual or \$400 as a couple to your child's school and receive a full credit on your state taxes. Due to budget cuts, our tax credit money becomes essential in helping us continue the programs and activities that we have become accustomed to providing for our families. This money can help to fund field trips, before-school activities and clubs, character education programs, music, drama, sports and art programs. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

OPEN HOUSE

Open House is on Tuesday, July 30th from 4-6pm. Please join us in order to meet your child's teacher and check out our beautiful campus! We look forward to seeing you!

[CLICK HERE](#) for Supply Lists

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: 8/1/24

Parents may walk their student(s) to their classroom(s) and say their goodbyes and help carry any supplies, etc. on the first day of school only. After the first day, our closed campus protocols will be followed.

Assemblies

We will be hosting Student Celebration Assemblies this year. The dates are as follows: **9/13, 11/1, 12/13, 1/31, 3/20, 5/1.**

Thank you for your continued support as we navigated through the last school year. I am beyond thrilled to welcome our Panthers back for another exciting year! Welcome back Panther Nation!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Leslie Willis
Principal
Mabel Padgett Elementary School