



THE SAUGATUCK SPOTLIGHT

*SES Principal's Newsletter/August 2024-
Welcome Back Edition!*

A MESSAGE FROM MRS. MESSLER

Welcome back, SES! To our returning students and families, we can't wait to see you on the first day of school and Meet Your Teacher Day! For our new families, you are about to join an extraordinary community, and we look forward to getting to know you better. All new SES families are invited to a special New Family Orientation on Monday, August 26, at 12:30 p.m., right before Meet Your Teacher visits. This is an opportunity to meet other new families, learn more about the school, and take a tour.

Each month I share important information about SES through this newsletter, including important dates, helpful reminders, and news/events information. Please take a few minutes to review this communication each month.

Wishing you all a wonderful end of summer!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

When students return to school, they should bring school supplies from the [elementary school supply lists](#) for grades K-1 and 2-5. Many of you may have ordered the school supply boxes that were delivered to homes this year, and you can bring those boxes to school. If you didn't order a school supply box, you can bring the supplies from the list. Please note, families will not be denied school supplies due to their inability to pay. For confidential financial support, please contact me at emessler@westportps.org.

DATES TO NOTE

Wednesday, August 21: Class Assignments are available in PowerSchool at 3:00 p.m.

Monday, August 26: Meet Your Teacher Day

- 12:30-1:15 p.m. New Family Orientation (Courtyard)
- 1:00-1:30 p.m. Kindergarten Bus visits (Auditorium)
- 1:30-2:00 p.m. Meet the Teacher K-2
- 2:00-2:30 p.m. Meet the Teacher 3-5

Tuesday, August 27: First day of school

Thursday, August 29: Back-to-School Ice Cream Social, 3:30-5:00 p.m. (SES playground)

Friday, August 30: SES School Spirit Day-wear blue & white/SES gear

Monday, September 2: Labor Day, no school

Tuesday, September 10: Saugatuck Principal's Coffee, sponsored by the SES PTA, Compo Beach (10:00 a.m.)

Friday, September 20: Professional Development Day for staff, no school for students

Tuesday, September 24:

- School Picture Day
- Back to School Night Grades K, 1, 2 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 25: Back to School Night Grades 3, 4, 5 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Bus routes will be published on the WPS district website this week.

STAFF UPDATES

We have a few SES staff members who are moving into new roles in Westport this year: Leigh-ann Genova will be a Math Interventionist at KHS, Lynn Hauser will be a Literacy Interventionist at LLS, and Paraprofessional Daryl Turner will be working with students at SHS.

Classroom Teachers Lauren Turner and Kelly Greenfield decided to pursue educational opportunities that worked best for their families, and Special Education Teacher Amanda Pfohl recently accepted the opportunity to be a Lifeskills Special Education Teacher in her hometown.

We are very grateful to Ms. Genova, Ms. Hauser, Ms. Turner, Ms. Greenfield, Ms. Pfohl, and Mr. Turner for all their contributions to SES!

As we enter the new school year, we welcome new faces to our staff. Please join me in welcoming Kelli Banet and Jenna Pisano, who join us as new members of the third-grade team. We were pleased to keep four sections of our rising fourth-grade and are excited to welcome Marcus Wright, who will join our fourth-grade team.

A couple of familiar faces also take on new roles this year. Jen Byrne has joined the Kindergarten team, Kim Heller has joined us as a second-grade teacher, and Joanna Dalton will be our student intern. She will do her student teaching later this winter at SES.

SUMMER MATH AND READING

Last spring, we sent home a summer letter encouraging reading and math practice using our [SES Summer Fun Website](#). Students can visit this website to record any books they have read on the summer reading challenge list. They can bring this paper to SES when they return to school.



REMINDERS

- Elementary school students may not display or use communication devices such as cell phones and smart watches from the time they arrive at school until the instructional day is over for all students, and this includes the bus. If a parent sends in a device, it must be turned off during this period and stored in the student's backpack.
- We have plenty of recess equipment; please do not bring equipment from home.
- If you are picking up at dismissal, please have a sign with your child's name and press the FastLane button in SDM when you arrive.
- Please review with your child what they can buy for lunch. A la carte items are available for purchase at lunchtime, which can add up quickly in accounts! For more pricing information, check out the WPS district website.
- Please send your child with a snack and a refillable water bottle every day. We have many water refill stations at SES!

SES PTA BACK TO SCHOOL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

We hope you can join our SES community on Thursday, August 29 at 3:30 p.m. for a PTA Back to School Ice Cream Social on our SES playground. More details to come from our SES PTA. This is not a drop off event.

SES PTA

Our school is fortunate to have a very supportive PTA. Our PTA is led by Co-Presidents Allison O'Dell (allisonon@gmail.com) and Indy Pereira (ipereira@cahoot.ai), as well as Past President Nat Smitobol (nsmitobol@gmail.com).

Please do not hesitate to contact any of them with questions.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Students have the option to purchase lunch at school and will have access to different lunch choices. It is important to set up a MySchoolBucks account for the debit system and monitor your child's balance regularly. More information about My School Bucks and lunch menus can be found on the [district website](#). Chartwells sometimes makes last-minute changes, so it is important to always check the WPS website for the day's lunch choices. Students may not purchase snacks outside of their lunchtime.

Some families may benefit from accommodations for Free and Reduced Lunch, and the district has a procedure to assist these families. The Superintendent will soon email a packet of information should your family be interested, and it can also be found on the district website. If you are interested in this opportunity, a new application must be completed every year.

PARENT HANDBOOK

The Westport Public Schools Handbook can be found on the WPS district website. I suggest that you look through this handbook, as it contains important information regarding district policies and procedures. Please be sure to look at the attendance policy, as well as policies regarding cell phones/smart watches and dress code, among others.

SCHOOL DISMISSAL MANAGER (SDM)

School Dismissal Manager is the program we use to keep track of all student dismissal plans. An email with more specific information regarding this system will be sent to you. ALL dismissal plans (other than a student's default bus) MUST be entered into SDM by the 1:45 p.m. cut-off time (10:15 a.m. on Early Release Days), and we use the SDM plans to dictate how your child is getting home.

Please note that if you are planning to pick your child up early, you must record that in SDM and your child must be picked up by 2:45 p.m. at the main office, so as not to interfere with our end of day dismissal process. If you cannot pick up your child by that time, they will be dismissed to the parent pick-up area at 3:10 p.m. and you will pick them up there.

Your assistance with our dismissal procedure is very important, as a safe and orderly dismissal is crucial to the school's operations. Dismissal is a hectic time, and to ensure student safety, we need to limit any unnecessary interruptions in our front office.

SES WEBSITE

The SES website (ses.westportps.org) includes important information for SES families. It has an area dedicated to incoming kindergarten families, information for families new to SES, and archived communications for families. It also includes links to district information, calendar, and more.



SAUGATUCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

