



SOUTHWESTERN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

600 Hunt Rd., W.E. ~ Jamestown, NY 14701
716-664-1881 ~ Fax 716-487-3170

website: <http://swcsk12.org>

August 2024

Dear Southwestern Students & Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! We are excited to have our Southwestern Trojans back in the building! We hope everyone had a fantastic summer and was able to get outside and enjoy time with family. We look forward to helping each child grow academically, socially, and emotionally this school year.

July was spent with students attending the Summer Enrichment Program. These students spent the summer taking a trip to the Audubon, gazing at the constellations in the Planetarium, and we ended it with a summer bash, including water balloons and popsicles. Thank you for the donations to make this celebration possible! Lastly, thank you to the students and staff who helped make another summer a success!

As we look to the new school year, we will keep our families informed to the best of our abilities. The Trojan Tribune Newsletter will continue to be sent regularly. There will also be updates on the Remind App, the school website, through our mass notification systems, and letters and flyers. If you are not receiving the newsletter, Remind notifications, or mass notifications and would like to, please call the office, and let us know. Please be aware that teachers will answer messages within an appropriate time frame and may have Remind office hours set.

Curriculum:

As the district continues through the PLC process, our staff is working to make instructional decisions to best meet student needs.

School Day Schedule:

This year, we will operate on the same arrival and dismissal schedule as the previous year. A change has been made as we are transitioning from half-day UPK to full day. UPK and the SCIS program will operate on the same schedule as grades K through 5.

Below is the schedule:

- 8:35 AM: Doors Open. Please DO NOT drop off students before this time, as we do not have adult supervision.
- 8:35 AM: Any students eating breakfast will proceed to the cafeteria.
- 8:50 AM: Morning Bell- Students will proceed to their classroom.
- 9:05 AM: Tardy Bell- Students should be in their classroom ready to start the day when this bell rings.
- 3:15 PM: Walker Dismissal- When this bell rings, all students being picked up by a parent/guardian or other approved person will be dismissed.
- 3:20 PM: Bus Dismissal: Bus students will be dismissed.

Arrival & Dismissal:

Arrival/morning pick-up will be the same as last year:

- All vehicles may only enter the campus from Hunt Road. The Alleghany Avenue Entrance will be for buses only.
- Entering vehicles will form two lanes on either side of the center sidewalk. Vehicles in the first lane will exit the campus via Hunt Road. Vehicles in the second lane will exit the campus via Alleghany Avenue.
- Please do not park along the sidewalk or in the small parking lot next to lane one.
- When dropping your child off in the morning, please either park in the parking lot and walk them to the door or pull up out front and let them out on the sidewalk only. There are two sidewalk options available: one in the parking lot and one in the front of the building. This should help if you have a car seat in the back passenger seat, preventing exit from that side.
- Please do not get out of your vehicle. Helpers are available outside to assist with backpacks, etc.
- If you are dropping your child in front of the building, do not pass or skip ahead in front of other vehicles. This is a safety issue.
- Watch your speed as you drive through the parking lot. Despite our efforts and the best intentions, going too fast poses a threat to student and staff safety.
- Please do not park in the bus loop and be aware of handicap parking spots.



Dismissal/afternoon pick-up will be the same as last year:

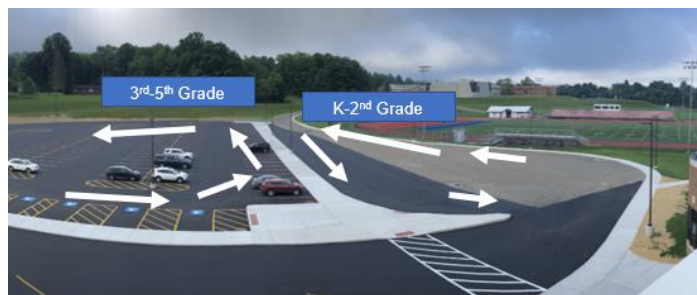
- Your child will not be released until you either pick them up in the car or walk to get them on the sidewalk. Students will not be allowed to walk across the parking lot without an adult.
- Please do not pass the car in front of you. You will need to wait until the line moves and exit single file.
- Please do not park in the drop-off or pick-up line, as it holds up traffic.
- Please do not park in the small parking lot near Lane one.
- NO students will be allowed to cross the parking lot without an adult, as this is a serious safety hazard.

Students in grades UPK-2:

- Vehicles should enter from Hunt Road and veer to the left in Lane One and form a line at the main entrance in the old bus loop.
- Please stay in the line and do not pass the car in front of you.
- Exit Campus via Hunt Rd.

Students in grades 3-5:

- Please enter from Allegheny Road and move along into Lane two,
- Please stay in the line and do not pass the car in front of you.
- Exit campus via Allegheny Ave.



If you have any questions relating to the arrival and dismissal procedures, please contact the office. Our number one priority is the safety of students, staff, and parents/guardians during these times, and we thank you for your cooperation and support in adhering to these procedures.

Transportation:

Students who rode the bus last school year will automatically be enrolled to ride the bus again this school year. UPK and Kindergarten students in need of transportation will need to register online on our district website. If your child did not ride the bus last year, but needs to this year, or there has been a change in address, please notify the transportation department.

Please be at your bus stop 10 minutes early for the first few days. After the first week, the bus route will become more established, and a regular pick-up/drop-off time will be determined.

If there are changes to your child's transportation, please call the office as soon as possible or send a note with your child. Transportation modifications cannot be accommodated after 1:30 PM.

New Staff to SWES:

We want to welcome the new staff members to our building and SWES family:

- Mrs. Peterson is our new assistant principal
- Miss Moss will be joining us in 5th grade
- Mrs. Swan will be transitioning to 3rd grade
- We will have a new 8:1:1 Special Education Teacher joining us
- We will also have a few new paraprofessionals joining our team!

Visitors:

Our number one goal is the safety of our students and staff. Visitors will be limited to appointments only. Please call the office ahead of time to make an appointment at 716-664-1881. Parents/guardians will have opportunities throughout the school year to volunteer for classroom parties and field trips. Parents/guardians MUST be Board Approved to enter the school as a volunteer. If you are not on the Board Approved List or are unsure if you are on it, please call the office. If you are not an approved volunteer and want to be, please apply in the Elementary Office. The process for board approval takes time, so please complete these in a timely fashion to ensure they are cleared by the date of volunteering. Also, families will be invited to various celebrations, concerts, and other events. Thank you for your understanding and support in working to keep everyone at SWES safe!

Start of the School Year:

We are excited to welcome students back for the first day of school on Tuesday, September 3rd. Students may be dropped off starting at 8:30 AM and can wait in the main entrance until 8:50 AM. Students who eat breakfast will be allowed to enter the building at 8:35 AM to go to the cafeteria. Students picked up at the end of the day by a parent/guardian or approved adult will be dismissed at 3:15 PM. Students riding the bus will be dismissed at 3:20 PM.

Open House:

The district wide Open House will take place on Thursday, August 28! There will be food trucks and ice cream available for purchase!

The open house for UPK (Universal Pre-Kindergarten) and Kindergarten students will be from 5:00-6:00 PM. Any students signed up for transportation can ride the bus with their family. Please contact the bus garage by August 21, to sign up for the Open House Bus Run.

The open house for grades 1 to 5 will be from 5:30-7:00 PM.

Students may bring their school supplies to keep in their classroom during this event. We look forward to meeting and reconnecting with our SWES students and their families!

As we prepare for this upcoming school year, our goal at SWES is to continue to engage all students in learning and work to help them achieve, with a focus on integrity, kindness, connections, and excellence. We look forward to a year filled with community engagement, learning, and fun-filled events.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Elementary Office at (716)664-1881.

Thank you,

Kaitlin Ring
Elementary Principal

Sarah Peterson
Elementary Assistant Principal