



Vanessa Terry, Principal
Chrissie Paradise, Assistant Principal
Monique Gutterrez, Assistant Principal
140 Plantation Road • Destrehan, LA 70047
Phone: 985-725-0123 • Fax: 985-725-0131

SHARK BITES

FEBRUARY 2026

WHERE EVERY STUDENT EXCELS

Once upon a time...

Mrs. Terry had a February message for all:

Greetings Schoeffner Families,

Throughout the month of January, we focused on the mindset *Attitude of Gratitude*. This mindset teaches us to harness the power of positivity by focusing on what we have rather than what we lack. Students learned to appreciate both the joys and challenges in their lives as opportunities for growth and success. By cultivating gratitude, we strengthen our perspective, build resilience, and deepen our connections with others - paving the way for a more meaningful and fulfilling life.

In February, we celebrate **Black History Month** to recognize the contributions and achievements of Black Americans throughout history. This is a time to learn about black culture, stories, and triumphs, and to honor the individuals whose leadership, courage, and activism have helped shape our world. Throughout the month, students will learn about important historical figures who made a positive impact on society.

February 2-6 is **National School Counseling Week**. Mrs. Pethe is a tremendous asset to our school community and goes above and beyond each day to support the social and emotional needs of our students. Thank you, Mrs. Pethe, for your genuine care and compassion for our Schoeffner families and staff. We encourage students to write a thoughtful note of appreciation to help celebrate her this week.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place on Thursday, February 5, and Friday, February 6. Understanding your child's strengths, areas for growth, and overall progress is essential to their success. Please make every effort to connect with your child's teacher during conferences. The effort students put into learning plays a powerful role in their success. Encourage your child to embrace challenges, stay focused, and persevere. With our continued support and belief in their potential, they can achieve great things.

Ethel Schoeffner Elementary students will parade to New Sarpy Elementary on **Friday, February 13, at 1:00 PM** for the **Krewe of Finley & Friends Mardi Gras Parade**. Students are responsible for bringing their own throws, such as individually wrapped candy, beads, or small trinkets. Families are welcome to attend as spectators. A designated area will be available for non-school spectators; however, space will be limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. No chaperones are needed for ESE students. For the safety of all students, no vehicular traffic will be allowed on the NSE or ESE campuses until all Schoeffner students have returned to ESE.

Thank you for your continued support of our **Finley's Fun Run Fundraiser**. Our preliminary donation total is nearly **\$28,000.00**. These funds help provide engaging activities and field trip opportunities for our students at no cost or a minimal cost to families.



Announcing Finley & Friends Royal Court

Queen – Jermani White King – Dylan Harris

Royal Court – Hattie Gautreaux, Bria Davenport, Brenton Bourgeois,
Brandon Hall, Jr. & Thalia Fowler

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Together, we remain committed to providing a high-quality education and ensuring every student grows as an independent, cooperative, empathetic, respectful, and productive lifelong learner.

COUNSELOR CONNECTION

“A VILLAGE OF KINDNESS”

A village shapes a child’s heart and mind. Let us teach them the greatest gift a person can offer: the act of kindness that changes lives.

Dr. Miyokia Carter, Ed.D., LPC-S, NCC: Mental Health Professional

In the month of January, ESE recognizes Kindness Month, and counselors and staff engage students in conversations about kindness throughout the month. While January is intentionally set aside to highlight the importance of kindness, our hope is that kindness is practiced every day. Students need to understand that kindness goes beyond simply saying nice words to friends and loved ones. True kindness comes from having a heart of empathy and care for others—especially those we may not know or interact with regularly. Every person matters.

Below are a few ways their village—teachers, families, role models, and mentors—can continue to reinforce that kindness truly matters and goes a long way:

1. *Respect, accept, and appreciate differences.*

Differences in how people do things or what they are interested in are not meant to divide us. Not everyone is meant to be the same or do things the same way. Differences create opportunities for learning, growth, fun, and openness.

2. *Model kindness to strangers.*

Greet others, offer compliments, and remain open to learning from people you may not interact with daily. Kindness can be shown through body language—smiling, waving, and being approachable in all settings.

3. *Redirect and encourage kindness.*

When a child’s support system notices unkind behavior, immediate redirection is important. Encouraging children to practice kind actions regularly helps instill kindness in their hearts and minds—one of the most powerful gifts we can give.

By modeling kindness, celebrating it, and encouraging it every day, we can help children grow into compassionate, caring individuals who make the world a better place!



Choir News

The Choir has been busy this year with auditions and performances. Way back in the very beginning of the year we started with auditions for the La. ACDA Hall-State Honor Choir. This very prestigious group is made up of talented 4th, 5th, and 6th Graders from all across Louisiana. The four students who qualified for this elite group were Zoe Martin, Aniyah Logan, Gracie Corass and Hazel Ferris. These girls participated in rehearsals then did an amazing concert!

As soon as we finished All-State, LMEA District VII Honor Choir Auditions were recorded by Halloween. Fifteen Students earned spots in this wonderful ensemble. Randie Hemple-Billodeau, Zoe Martin, Camryn Brandau, Avery Corona, Rosalinda Alvarado, Gracie Corass, Janel Nabor, Lacie Bayonne, Cecelia Meche. Seth Foote, Crosby England, Emma Jordan, Aniyah Logan and Saige Easley graced the Lafon Performing Arts Center Stage on January 31, 2026 with a wonderful concert program.

In addition to these select group performances, our 5th Grade Choir sang for the Rotary Club's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in December. They had a lovely performance! At Christmas, the 4th and 5th Grade Choir sang at our Christmas Concert held at Destrehan High School. Many thanks to the Faculty and Staff of DHS for being our gracious hosts for this performance.

The choir will make another appearance at Ya'll Fest on March 3rd. Selected members will perform at Arts Fest coming soon after, and then we will have auditions for St. Charles Parish Honor Choir to be held in April. Please look for more information to come on those two events.

Our final concert of the year will be held at ESE, as the Annual Spring Concert with Band and Choir performing. More details will follow.

I am very proud of these students, they have worked hard to learn good vocal technique, ear training, good diction, rhythm, and lots of terms to bring out the most in learning choir music. We also emphasize treating each other with respect, and helping each other be better people through the thought process of learning to sing, and learning that ensemble means "We Work Together".

Musically Yours,
Cheryl Mahler



All-State Choir members pictured above with Mrs. Mahler
Gracie, Aniyah, Zoe & Hazel

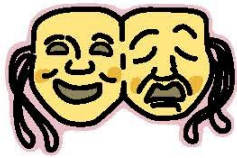
District Science Fair Elementary Division Winners

Category	School	Place	Student Name	Title
Biological Science	ESE	2nd	Margaret Deis	From Chrysalis to Flight: Documenting Emergence
Chemical Science	ESE	2nd	Emma Jordan	The colors of fruit
Chemical Science	ESE	1st	Ridge Blackwell	Crystal Challenge

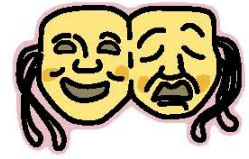
Congratulations!!

January Students of the Month

Sophie Sanchez, David Bauer, Braxton Droptmore, Jacob Ramirez,
Angie Perez-Paulino, Tylar Alonzo, Lilah Ryan, Reagan Long,
Kendall Lambert, Gracelyn Braud, Ludvin Fuentes, Makayla Matherne,
Thalia Fowler, Winter Hayes, Randie Hempel-Billodeau, Hayden Arant,
Zykyri Nyamayaro, Avery Simon, Jaisyn Alexander



Mardi Gras Safety



We wish you and your family a fun and safe Mardi Gras!

Here are some tips and reminders to help you enjoy the parades. Children and seniors are very vulnerable during parade season because of cold weather and increased exposure to germs. The Mardi Gras holiday break is a great time to **schedule a wellness appointment and receive immunizations** that may be due or past due. Students who are turning **11 years old** are due for routine immunizations within 30 days after their 11th birthday. Please reach out to your child's medical provider or the School Nurse if you have any questions regarding immunizations. Being aware of your child's health concerns or changes before parade season can help ease the pressure of the busy season.

Do:

- ❖ Always keep track of your children! Know where they are and what they are doing at all times. Decide on a meeting place before the parade such as a restaurant or easily remembered building or landmark - in case anyone in your group gets separated. Tell children to ask a uniformed police officer for help, NOT a stranger!
- ❖ Be extra careful while walking near parades or traffic. Always cross at a corner and watch for cars or other vehicles at all times.
- ❖ Clear the path for bands and other marching groups as they go by.
- ❖ Be careful of beads being thrown from the floats in the parade. During the day, sunglasses can protect your eyes from the sun as well as the throws.
- ❖ Dress appropriately for the weather and use sunscreen!
- ❖ Keep your pets at home where they are safe!

Don't:

- ❖ Don't run in between or chase floats or cars for beads or throws.
- ❖ **Never** reach under a float to grab a bead or doubloon. No trinket is worth a life!
- ❖ **Never** grab onto a float. The crowd may push you into or under the float!
- ❖ Don't climb on or over barricades; they're there to protect you.
- ❖ Don't assume that the traffic will stop for you—be careful and aware!

As a gentle reminder, if your child is sick, please keep him/her home from school until they are well - **fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication** (temperature less than 101 degrees), no vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours, and no symptoms of contagious illness.

Laissez le bon temps rouler!

Your School Nurse,
Abbie LeRouge, RN, BSN
alerouge@wearescpps.org



3rd Grade

3rd grade students have been working hard on their Because of Winn Dixie Unit and learning about unlikely friendships. Students have been preparing for their upcoming Culminating Writing Task which will include using Opal and another character from the story. Students are looking forward to a special celebration to culminate the end of this unit.

In math, our students will begin Module 5. The students will begin their journey into fractions. They will enjoy making fraction strips and learn about numerators and denominators.

In science, we just began our Module 3(traits) unit. Students are learning how organisms have traits and how those traits can change as the organism grows and develops. Have some fun with your child and ask them about their traits, such as hair color, eye color, and height.



Our ELA Flex groups started the new year off with a bang. Students are really working hard within their personalized flex groups. In the Fluency group, students are learning about different Phonics patterns using games. Below are pictures of some students practicing phrasing with a partner.



4th Grade

Our fourth grade students came back from the winter holidays refreshed and ready to learn!

In English Language Arts, we have been reading the novel, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan. We have been following along with Percy Jackson's quest as he discovers that he is a half-blood that must find Zeus' missing lightning bolt to prevent a war between the gods. As we are introduced to new characters, we are building our schema (background knowledge) about the Greek Gods and Goddess. We will read the entire novel to analyze the theme that is revealed through Percy's quest.

In math, our fourth grade students began Module 4. This module focuses on Geometry, introducing fundamental concepts like points, lines, line segments, rays, and angles, teaching students to construct, define, measure (with protractors), and classify 2D figures, with key work on angle measurement and symmetry to build a foundation for later algebra and geometry

In Social Studies, we have started Unit 4: The Growth of Empires. In this unit, we are learning about how the civilizations of the Roman Republic, Roman Empire, and early Imperial China were rich and complex and influenced much of Europe and Asia for centuries.

In Science, we began Module 3, "Sense and Response," which explores how animals gather information from their environment and react to it, focusing on the anchor phenomenon of elephants sensing distant rainstorms through specialized sensory structures and receptors (like ears, nose) that detect vibrations, sounds, and smells, leading to survival behaviors, using hands-on investigations and modeling to understand structure-function relationships and apply concepts to other animals and phenomena.

Please ask your child to tell you about all of the exciting learning that they are doing in class!



What's Up in 5th Grade



Math

In Math, we are wrapping up Module 3, multiplication and division of fractions. We are moving into Module 4, place value concepts for decimal operations. Students will continue to apply math operations to the real world by solving and creating word problems.

ELA

In ELA, students are really enjoying our new unit *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. They are spending time reading and discussing in literature circles to express their understanding!



Science & Social Studies

In Social Studies, we are wrapping up Unit 3, indigenous people found around the U.S. We are moving into Unit 4, Aztec and Inca civilizations. In Science, we are learning about how earth's water moves.

ETHEL SCHOEFFNER ELEMENTARY 4-H *Club*



Next Meeting Date:

- Wednesday** **February 25**
- Wednesday** **March 25**
- Wednesday** **April 22 **by invitation only**

*Members will be notified of any date changes.

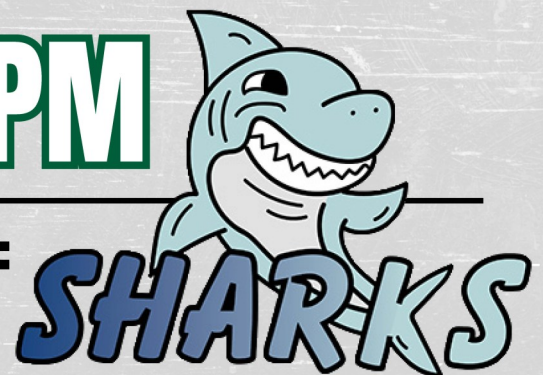
2025-2026

MEETING TIME:

3:05 PM - 4:15 PM

ETHEL SCHOEFFNER 4-H LEADERS:

MRS. MATHERNE, MRS. KELLER, MRS. JACOB
AND MS. DUCRE





Car Rider Logistics

Morning Arrival

- Always enter the parking lot from the side closest to New Sarpy.
- When dropping off your child, pull all the way to the right. This allows teachers and staff to enter and park until 7:35 AM.
- Staff members will be on duty to receive students until 7:50 AM. Students arriving after 7:50 are considered tardy.
- If no adult is present at drop-off, please park and escort your child into the office to sign them in.
- Do **not** park in the bus circle before 8:10 AM.

Afternoon Dismissal

- Park in the side parking lot and walk to the cafeteria doors to pick up your child.
- Anyone other than a legal guardian must be listed on the Emergency Card in order to pick up your child. ID will be required for verification.
- A school representative will check you in and release your child safely.
- If you need to check your child out early, please do so **before 2:30 PM**, as the office becomes very busy preparing for dismissal. While the ESE 2025-2026 Family Handbooks states 2:45, this is incorrect. **The correct time is 2:30 PM.**

Ethel Schoeffner Elementary is excited to stay connected with families through social media!

Follow us on:

X
@ESE_Sharks

Instagram
@Schoeffnerelementary

Facebook
Ethel Schoeffner Elementary



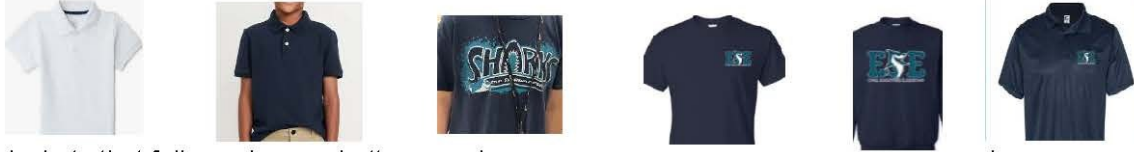
You can see our Sharks in action!

2025 – 2026 Student Dress Code

Uniform apparel will only be sold through **Skipper's** online store: <https://ese2025.itemorder.com/shop/home/>
 Online store is closed until September 29. Next purchasing window will be September 29 - October 13

Shirts/Sweatshirts

- Solid white or solid navy collared shirt, navy ESE spirit shirt, or 25-26 Theme Shirt can be worn any day.



- Jackets that fully unzip or unbutton may be any color
 - **Non-ESE logos or printed images may be no bigger than the size of a fist**
 - **Jackets must remain unzipped while inside the building.**
- **Pullovers must be solid - navy, white, gray, black.**
 - Non-ESE logos may be no bigger than the size of a fist
 - **No hooded pullover/sweatshirts may be worn on any school campus during the school day.**

ALLOWED SWEATSHIRTS & JACKETS



Solid black w/ logo about the size of fist

School logo

Solid – no hood

SWEATSHIRTS & JACKETS NOT ALLOWED



Logo too big

Logo too big & has hood

Logo is right size BUT has hood

Pants/Shorts

Pants/shorts must be khaki or navy
 Shorts/skirts/jumpers shall be longer than two inches above the top of knee cap.



Solid navy, solid white, solid gray, or solid black leggings/tights **may only be worn under** school-appropriate skirts or shorts.

Examples of what is NOT allowed

No cargo pants /shorts

Leggings may **never** be worn as outerwear



Too Short

Too tight –biking shorts

Athletic/tennis skirts **may not be worn** if they are less than two inches above the knee.

ON FRIDAYS ONLY

Only on Fridays, students may wear an ESE special event or St. Charles Parish Public Schools sponsored event shirt. Previous year special ESE Theme/Event shirts - ex. Fun Run, Spring Fling



Other St. Charles Parish Event Shirts:

D.A.R.E Honor Band Desty Darling/Cheer/Baseball/Football Camp 2nd to 3rd Grade New Sarpy Shirt

Students may wear jeans or bottoms of their choice of any color that are school appropriate. Pajama pants, cargo pants, or torn, cut, or ripped bottoms are not allowed. Leggings or tights may not be worn as outerwear.

4H t-shirts may be worn on Fridays AND on the day of the monthly meetings.

Pep Squad t-shirts may be worn on Fridays AND on the day of Pep Squad events – with sponsor approval.

Only clear water bottles are allowed.



February 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 Pep Squad Practice 3:05-4:30 PM	4	5 3rd Quarter Progress Reports go home ----- Early Dismissal 11:55 AM Conferences 12:30-6:00 PM	6 Students may wear a Mardi Gras or purple/green/gold shirt ----- Early Dismissal 11:55 AM Conferences 12:30-3:00 PM	7
8	9	10 Pep Squad Practice 3:05-4:30 PM	11	12	13 Krewe of Finley Parade 1:00 PM @ NSE 	14
15	16	17 	18	19	20	21
MARDI GRAS HOLIDAY						
22	23	24	25 4H Meeting 3:05-4:15 PM	26	27 Concessions @ lunch maximum \$3	28

February 2026 Elementary Menus

St. Charles Parish
Public Schools



Every complete
meal we serve
comes with your
choice of low fat
or nonfat milk!

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Menus are subject to change.

AVAILABLE DAILY

With all meals
Low Fat White Milk
Fat Free Flavored Milk

Cold Lunch Choice

Monday: Sunbutter Sandwich
Tuesday: Charley Box
Weds: Deli Sandwich
Thursday: Entrée Salad
Friday: Sunbutter Sandwich

Monday, February 2	Tuesday, February 3	Wednesday, February 4	Thursday, February 5	Friday, February 6
Breakfast Pancake on a Stick Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast Chicken Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast French Toast Sticks Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast Sausage Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast Egg Bites Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice
Lunch Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Cal Blend Veggies Cinnamon Apple Slices	Lunch Chicken Alfredo Broccoli Florets Steamed Carrots WW Roll Pineapple Tid bits	Lunch Chili, Fritos Garden Salad Steamed Corn Banana Cake or Crisp	Lunch Bosco Sticks Marinara Sauce Green Beans Fruit	Lunch Hamburger/Cheeseburger Crinkle Cut Fries Lettuce/Tomato/Pickle Baked Beans Orange Wedges
			EARLY DISMISSAL	EARLY DISMISSAL



Monday, February 9	Tuesday, February 10	Wednesday, February 11	Thursday, February 12	Friday, February 13
Breakfast Breakfast Pizza Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast Chicken Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast Cinnamon Roll Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast Sausage Biscuit Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice	Breakfast Scout Cereal w/Graham Crackers Yogurt w/Tiger Bites Fruit or Juice Choice
Lunch Chicken Tenders Waffles Green Beans Steamed Carrots Sliced Peaches	Lunch Orange Chicken Fried Rice Asian Chopped Salad Edamame Beans Mandarin Oranges	Lunch Spaghetti & Meat sauce Italian Salad Broccoli Garlic Bread Banana	Lunch Turkey & Sausage Gumbo Steamed Rice Potato Salad Cucumber/Tomato Salad Pineapple Tid bits	Lunch Mini Corn Dogs Tater Tots Carrots w/Ranch Orange Wedges Jello w/Topping



Local Mardi Gras celebrations

Saturday, Feb. 14

Krewe of Lul

Sunday, Feb. 15

Krewe of
Des Allemands

Tuesday, Feb. 17

Mardi Gras Day

Mardi Gras Holiday No School

Monday, February 15 through Friday, February 20



Special Days

Feb 2 | Groundhog Day

Feb 4 | National Homemade Soup Day

Feb 6 | National Chopsticks Day

Feb 14 | Valentines Day

Feb 16 | President's Day

Feb 17 | National Cabbage Day

Feb 20 | National Muffin Day

Feb 27 | National Chili Day

Feb 28 | National Pancake Day

Monthly celebrations

Pride in Foodservice Week | Feb. 2-6

Random Acts of Kindness Week | Feb. 14-20

Black History Month

International Friendship Month

National Cherry Month

National Sweet Potato Month

National Women Inventors Month

Potato Lovers Month