

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Greetings, Barksdale Elementary School Families!

Whether you are a new or returning family, I want to warmly welcome you to the 2026–2027 school year. As I begin my second year as the proud principal of M.G. Barksdale Elementary School, I am filled with excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to continue serving this incredible school community. Last year, we strengthened our foundation together, and this year, we are Anchored in Excellence: Full Speed Ahead as we continue our pursuit of academic excellence, meaningful relationships, and student success.

At Barksdale Elementary, we believe that strong partnerships between home and school are essential to helping every child thrive. To stay informed throughout the school year, please create a Parent Portal and Canvas Observer account through Infinite Campus, sign up to receive ParentSquare messages, check your child's communication folder each Wednesday, listen to weekly Sunday messages, read The Buccaneer Banner each month, maintain regular communication with your child's teacher, attend parent-teacher conferences, and participate in school events whenever possible.

Research consistently shows that regular school attendance is one of the strongest predictors of academic success. Please make every effort to ensure your child arrives at school on time each day they are well enough to attend. Our instructional day begins promptly at 7:35 a.m., and being on time helps students start the day prepared for learning. Early checkout ends at 1:40 p.m., and dismissal begins at 2:10 p.m. To support a smooth and safe dismissal process, please establish your child's transportation plan before the first day of school and communicate it clearly to your child's teacher. Whether your child is a bus rider, car rider, walker, or participant in our M.O.R.E. after-school program, consistency is important.

We look forward to welcoming families to Open House on Thursday, July 30, 2026. Your Buccaneer will also receive a back-to-school postcard in the mail with important information about the upcoming school year. Our first day of school is Monday, August 3, 2026, and we cannot wait to welcome our students back to campus. Following the first week of school, we will transition to our "Kiss-and-Go" procedures. Please know that BES staff members will be on duty each day to ensure students arrive safely and confidently.

As we prepare for another outstanding year, I encourage you to visit the BES website regularly and become familiar with the resources available there. If you ever have questions or concerns, please contact the school first—we are here to help and value our partnership with you. Thank you for choosing Barksdale Elementary School. Together, we will continue to build on our successes and ensure that every student is challenged, supported, and inspired. Remember, today and every day is a great day to be a Buccaneer, and I am proud to be your principal. Thank you for choosing Barksdale Elementary School.

With Buccaneer Pride,



Dr. Erica Wakefall

Principal

M.G. Barksdale Elementary School

