



Southwestern Elementary School

150 Pioneer Rd.
Suffolk, VA 23437

August 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

To improve student safety and increase the efficiency of arrival and dismissal procedures, Southwestern Elementary School will implement an updated Car Tag Rider Program for the upcoming school year. All families participating in the Car Tag Rider Program must complete the digital form, which can be accessed using the QR Code at the bottom of the page or by clicking the following link: "[Car Rider Authorization Form](#)." Parents will receive a school-issued car rider tag that must be displayed daily during dismissal.

New Traffic Pattern

When entering the school parking lot, vehicles should continue straight ahead through the main drive. This traffic pattern positions the passenger side of each vehicle next to the school building so students can safely enter and exit from the curbside. Students will only load and unload from the passenger side of the vehicle.

Car Rider Expectations

- Display your official car rider tag on your rearview mirror each day.
- Have students ready with backpacks and belongings, and have goodbyes completed before reaching the loading or unloading area.
- Teach students to independently buckle and unbuckle seatbelts when developmentally appropriate.
- Pull all the way forward to the furthest available cone or staff member before stopping.
- Remain in your vehicle during arrival and dismissal.
- Follow all staff directions to help keep traffic moving safely and efficiently.

Early Student Pick-Up

Early student pick-up should be reserved for emergencies, appointments, or other unavoidable circumstances. Parents/guardians picking up a student before dismissal must report to the front office, present a valid photo ID, and park in the designated **Visitor Parking spaces**. To maintain a safe and efficient dismissal process, students may not be signed out after 3:30 p.m. **Once dismissal begins, all students will be dismissed using their regularly scheduled transportation. Parents/guardians arriving after 3:30 p.m. must remain in their vehicles until the car rider line has concluded. Please do not wait at the front doors or attempt to enter the building for student pick-up during dismissal.**

Thank you in advance for your support. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 757-925-5782 or via email at lorimounie@spsk12.net or nataliekarakla@spsk12.net.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lori S. Mounie

Ms. Natalie Karakla



<https://bit.ly/4fcHJMR>



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