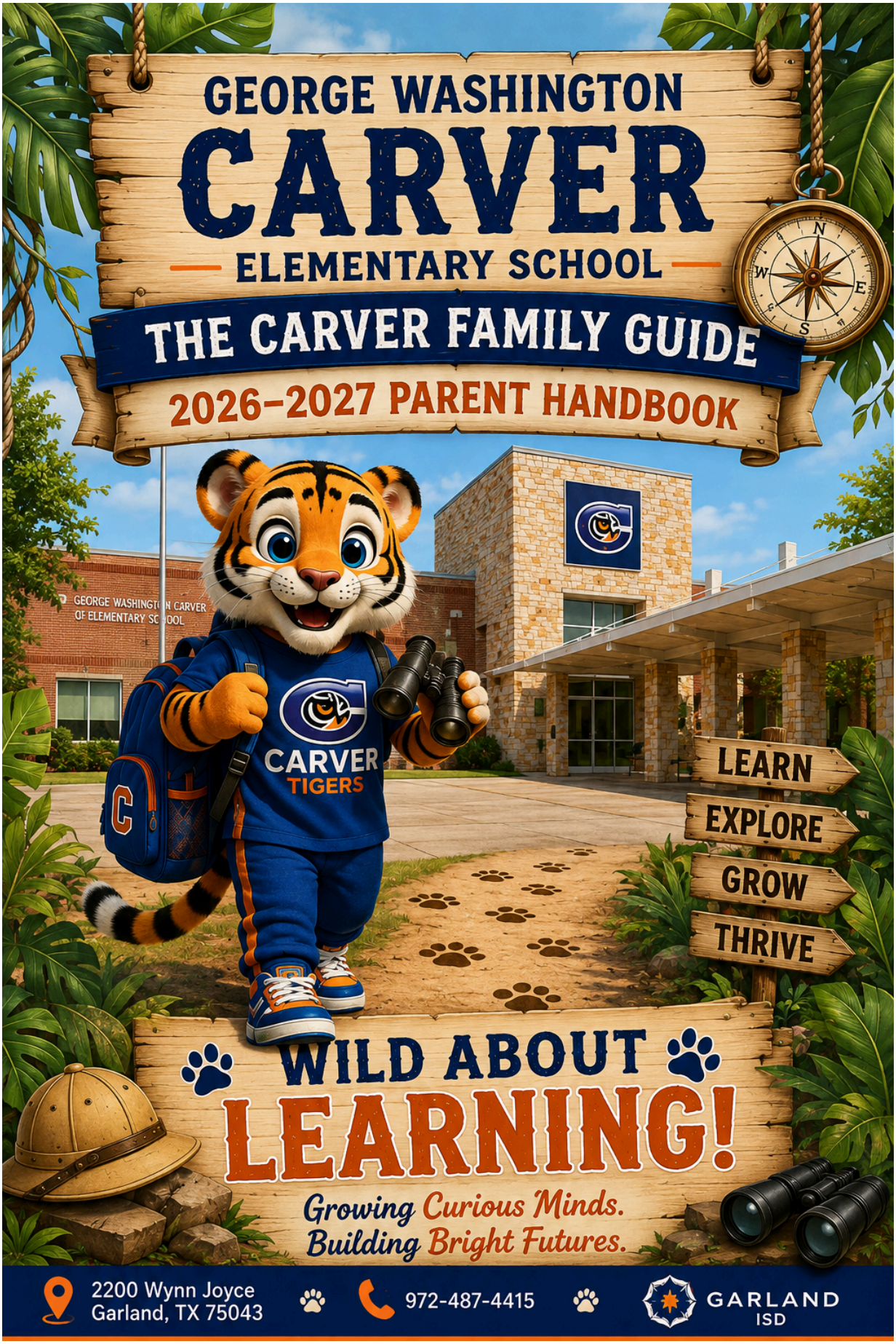

GEORGE WASHINGTON
CARVER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
THE CARVER FAMILY GUIDE
2026–2027 PARENT HANDBOOK
CARVER
TIGERS
LEARN
EXPLORE
GROW
THRIVE
WILD ABOUT
LEARNING!
Growing Curious Minds.
Building Bright Futures.
2200 Wynn Joyce
Garland, TX 75043
972-487-4415
GARLAND
ISD

Welcome to a New School Year!

Dear Carver Families,

Whether your family is returning to Carver or joining us for the first time, we are honored that you have entrusted us with your child's education. We look forward to partnering with you to make this a year filled with learning, growth, and success.

This year is especially meaningful as we celebrate **20 years of George Washington Carver Elementary**. As we honor our history, we also embrace our 2026–2027 theme, **Wild About Learning!** Together, we will inspire curiosity, foster growth, and encourage every student to reach their full potential.

Our mission remains at the heart of everything we do:

> George Washington Carver Elementary is committed to serving our students by empowering them to become positive, productive, and responsible citizens in a changing world.

Student success is built through strong partnerships between school and home. We encourage you to stay connected, communicate with your child's teacher, and join us in celebrating your child's accomplishments throughout the year.

Our dedicated staff is committed to creating a safe, welcoming, and engaging learning environment where every child is challenged, supported, and encouraged to thrive. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your child's educational journey.

We are excited for an amazing year ahead and look forward to partnering with you as we continue building on Carver's tradition of excellence.

Wild About Learning!

Warmly,

Karen Gipson
Principal
George Washington Carver Elementary

Carver Mission Statement:

George Washington Carver is committed to serving our students by empowering them to be positive, productive, responsible citizens in a changing world.

Carver Vision Statement:

Excellence through Diversity and Community

Our Core Values

At Carver, our work is guided by the values represented in our **T.I.G.E.R.S.** acronym. These values shape our interactions, decisions, and commitment to serving students every day.

Trustworthy: We build trust by acting with honesty, reliability, and consistency. Students, families, and colleagues know they can depend on us.

Integrity: We choose to do what is right, even when no one is watching. We demonstrate professionalism, accountability, and ethical decision-making in all that we do.

Generosity: We serve others with kindness, compassion, and a willingness to help. We celebrate the success of others and willingly lend a helping hand.

Empathy: We seek to understand the perspectives and experiences of others. We create a welcoming environment where every student and colleague feels valued, respected, and supported.

Responsibility: We take ownership of our actions, maintain high expectations, and remain committed to continuous growth and excellence in serving our students.

Synergy: We believe we are stronger together. Through collaboration, communication, and teamwork, we create a positive learning environment where everyone can succeed.

Our Theme: Wild About Learning

School Mascot: Tigers

This year's theme reminds us that learning is an exciting journey filled with curiosity, exploration, and growth. Every classroom, hallway, and interaction should inspire students to discover their potential, persevere through challenges, and celebrate their successes.

Being **Wild About Learning** means embracing new opportunities, encouraging one another, and creating meaningful learning experiences that empower every student to thrive.

The Carver Difference

At Carver, we believe that every adult is an educator, every interaction is an opportunity, and every student deserves our very best.

The Carver Difference is reflected in how we serve our students each day.

We...

- Put students at the center of every decision.
- Build relationships before correcting behavior.
- Maintain high expectations while providing high levels of support.
- Protect instructional time.
- Foster independence rather than dependence.
- Work collaboratively as one team with one common purpose.
- Celebrate growth, effort, and achievement.
- Model professionalism, kindness, and respect in every interaction.
- Create a culture where every student feels safe, valued, challenged, and inspired to succeed.

Together, we are committed to creating an environment where excellence is expected, diversity is celebrated, community is strengthened, and every Tiger has the opportunity to thrive.

Partnering with Families

At George Washington Carver Elementary, we believe that educating a child is a shared responsibility. When families and school staff work together, students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. We value the unique role each family plays in a child's success and are committed to building strong, positive partnerships throughout the school year.

What You Can Expect From Us

As your child's school, we are committed to:

- Providing a safe, welcoming, and engaging learning environment.
- Holding high expectations while supporting every student's growth.
- Communicating openly and in a timely manner.
- Building positive relationships with every child and family.
- Celebrating successes and working together to overcome challenges.
- Treating every student with dignity, respect, and care.

How You Can Support Your Child's Success

Families play an important role in helping students reach their full potential. We encourage you to:

- Ensure your child attends school every day and arrives on time.
- Read with your child and encourage learning at home.
- Stay connected through ParentSquare, ClassDojo, and campus communications.
- Communicate with your child's teacher whenever questions or concerns arise.
- Reinforce our campus expectations for respect, responsibility, and kindness.
- Participate in school events, conferences, and family engagement opportunities whenever possible.

Together, we can create a positive learning experience where every Tiger feels supported, challenged, and empowered to succeed. Thank you for partnering with us as we make this school year one filled with growth, achievement, and memorable experiences.

School Information

School Hours	8:10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
School Address	2200 Wynn Joyce Garland 75043
Phone Number	972-487-4415
Office Hours	7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Front Office Personnel

School Principal	Karen Gipson
Assistant Principal	Teranee Berry
Administrative Intern	LaToya Wheeler
Administrative Assistant	Jackie Hernandez
Counselors	LaTanya Martin Kalena Mauga
Nurse	Angelica Ochoa
Data Clerk	Stacy Hale
Office Clerk	Jenny Shell

Have a Question or Concern?

We are here to help! To ensure questions and concerns are addressed quickly and effectively, we encourage families to begin with the staff member closest to the situation.

Classroom, Academic, or Student Concerns:
Begin by contacting your child's **teacher**. Most questions and concerns can be resolved through direct communication with the teacher.

Need Additional Support?
If additional assistance is needed, please contact the **Assistant Principal or appropriate campus staff member** for support.

Still Need Assistance? If your concern remains unresolved after these steps, please contact the **Principal**. We are committed to working together with families to support every Carver Tiger.

Welcome to another exciting year at **George Washington Carver Elementary!** We are thrilled to partner with you as we begin a new year of learning, growth, and success. Together, families and staff are committed to ensuring every student who walks through our doors feels welcomed, supported, challenged, and inspired to reach their full potential.

The first day of school is **Monday, August 10, 2026**. We've included the information below to help your family prepare for a smooth and successful start to the school year.

Back to School / Porch Party
Thursday, August 6, 2026 - 4:30–6:00 PM

We can't wait to welcome our Tiger families back to campus! Join us for our annual Back to School/Porch Party, where you'll have the opportunity to meet our staff, explore the campus, and kick off an exciting year together. Students are welcome to bring their school supplies and drop them off in their classrooms during this event.

Meet the Teacher Night & Parent Information Night
Tuesday, August 25, 2026 - 4:30–6:30 PM

Join us for our **Meet the Teacher & Parent Information Night!** Families will have an opportunity to visit classrooms, connect with teachers, and learn more about classroom expectations, routines, curriculum, communication, and ways to support learning at home.

During the evening, families will also receive important **Title I information**, including how Title I supports students and families at Carver, opportunities for family engagement, and ways parents can partner with us throughout the school year.

Our physical education, music, art, intervention, instructional support, library, speech, special education, and counseling staff will also be available to meet families and answer questions.

Standardized Dress

George Washington Carver Elementary is a **standardized dress campus.** Standardized dress promotes a positive learning environment, encourages school pride, and minimizes distractions so students can focus on learning. For complete standardized dress guidelines, please visit our campus website or contact the front office with any questions.

Campus Communication

We believe that strong communication between home and school is essential to student success. Important information, school announcements, PTA updates, and campus flyers will be shared through **ParentSquare**, **ClassDojo, and call-outs**. Please make sure your contact information in **Skyward** is current so you receive important updates throughout the school year.

Pre-K & Kindergarten Transition

Starting kindergarten is an exciting milestone! During Meet the Teacher Night, our **Pre-K and Kindergarten** teachers will share information about the transition to school and provide families with helpful tips for supporting their child's success both at school and at home.

Arrival Procedures

To ensure a safe and efficient arrival for all students, parents may not walk students into the building during daily arrival. **Parents are welcome to walk students into the building on the first day of school.**

- **Pre-K** students will enter through the **Pre-K Entrance** near the PreK Playground using the Wynn Joyce entrance and stopping at the front of the building.
- **Pre-K** students with siblings will enter the Pre-K Entrance, however siblings will walk to their grade level arrival area.
- **Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade** students will enter the back cafeteria hallway (Door)
- **Specialized SPED units (ABC, MTI, ECSE),** students will enter through the **PreK doors near the PreK playground.**

- **Walkers will use the crosswalk to enter the school side door entrance, facing S. Country Club.**
- Students should wear their school-issued ID badge each day.

- **Bus and Daycare Students:** Enter from **S. Country Club Drive** and report to their designated morning area through the Gym Entrance.

- **Car Riders:** Enter from **Wynn Joyce Drive** and follow staff directions to the designated student drop-off area.

Thank you for helping us provide a safe, smooth, and welcoming start to every school day.

School Day & Morning Arrival

The first day of school is **Monday, August 10, 2026**.

School Hours

- **School Day:** 8:10 AM – 3:30 PM
- **Building Opens:** 7:30 AM

For the safety of all students, staff supervision begins at **7:30 AM**. Please do not drop students off before this time, as there will be no staff available to supervise students prior to 7:30 AM.

Parents are welcome to walk their child into the building **on the first day of school only**.

Morning Arrival & Late Procedures

Instruction begins promptly at **8:10 AM**. Students arriving after **8:10 AM** are considered **late**.

For the safety and security of all students, **a parent or guardian must accompany any student arriving after 8:10 AM into the front office to sign them in.** Students should **not** be dropped off at the curb or allowed to enter the building independently after the instructional day has begun.

If your child arrives after **8:10 AM**, please:

- Park your vehicle in a designated parking space.
- Walk your child into the front office.
- Sign your child in before they report to class.
- Ensure your child receives a late pass before going to class.

These procedures help us:

- Maintain a safe and secure campus.
- Ensure every student is accounted for upon arrival.
- Accurately document attendance.
- Minimize disruptions to classroom instruction.

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure every Carver Tiger arrives safely, on time, and ready to learn!

Dismissal Procedures (3:30 PM)

The safety of our students is our highest priority. To ensure a safe, smooth, and efficient dismissal each day, we ask all families to follow the procedures below.

Pick-Up Cards

Each family will receive a Carver Pick-Up Card. This card must be presented when picking up your child.

- Place the pick-up card on the passenger (right) side of your windshield so staff can easily identify your student.
- Keep the card displayed until your child has safely entered your vehicle.
- If you do not have your pick-up card, you will be asked to park and report to the front office with a valid government-issued photo ID. For security purposes, photos of IDs on cell phones cannot be accepted.

Changes to Dismissal

If someone other than the usual adult will be picking up your child, please notify the front office before 2:00 PM.

Anyone picking up a student without a Carver Pick-Up Card must present a valid government-issued photo ID before the student can be released. These procedures are in place to protect the safety of every child. No exceptions will be made.

Dismissal Locations

Families with Multiple Students (Sibling Pick-Up)

Students who have siblings at Carver will be dismissed from the cafeteria dismissal door located at the back of the school.

- Enter campus from the Wynn Joyce entrance and follow the right lane to the back of the school.
- Please note that the gate may remain closed due to student recess until 2:00 PM.
- Once you are in the dismissal line:
    - Left lane: Student loading only
    - Right lane: Passing only
- Please remain in your vehicle and follow all directions provided by staff members.

Single Car Riders

Students without siblings will be dismissed from the S. Country Club Road entrance.

- Right lane: Student loading only
- Left lane: Passing only

Please remain in your vehicle and follow all directions provided by staff members.

Please refer to the Campus Dismissal Map for dismissal locations and traffic flow.

Prekindergarten (PreK) and Specialized Program Dismissal

Students in Prekindergarten (PreK) and Specialized Program (SPED Unit) classrooms will be dismissed from Door 16, located at the front of the school.

- **Please pull forward to the farthest available point before stopping your vehicle. This helps keep the dismissal line moving safely and efficiently.**
- Orange cones are placed to reserve parking spaces for our specialized program buses. Please do not park or stop in any area marked by cones.
- A valid **Carver Pick-Up Card** must be displayed when picking up your child. If you do not have your pick-up card, you will be required to present a valid government-issued photo ID before your child can be released.

PreK Students with Siblings

To make dismissal easier for families, PreK students who have siblings at Carver will be dismissed from the cafeteria dismissal door at the back of the school with their siblings. Families should follow the Sibling Pick-Up dismissal procedures outlined above.

If you have any questions about your child's dismissal location, please contact the front office before the end of the school day.

Walker Procedures

Student safety is our highest priority. To ensure a safe and efficient dismissal, all student walkers will be escorted by Carver staff to the crossing guard located on the Wynn Joyce side of the school.

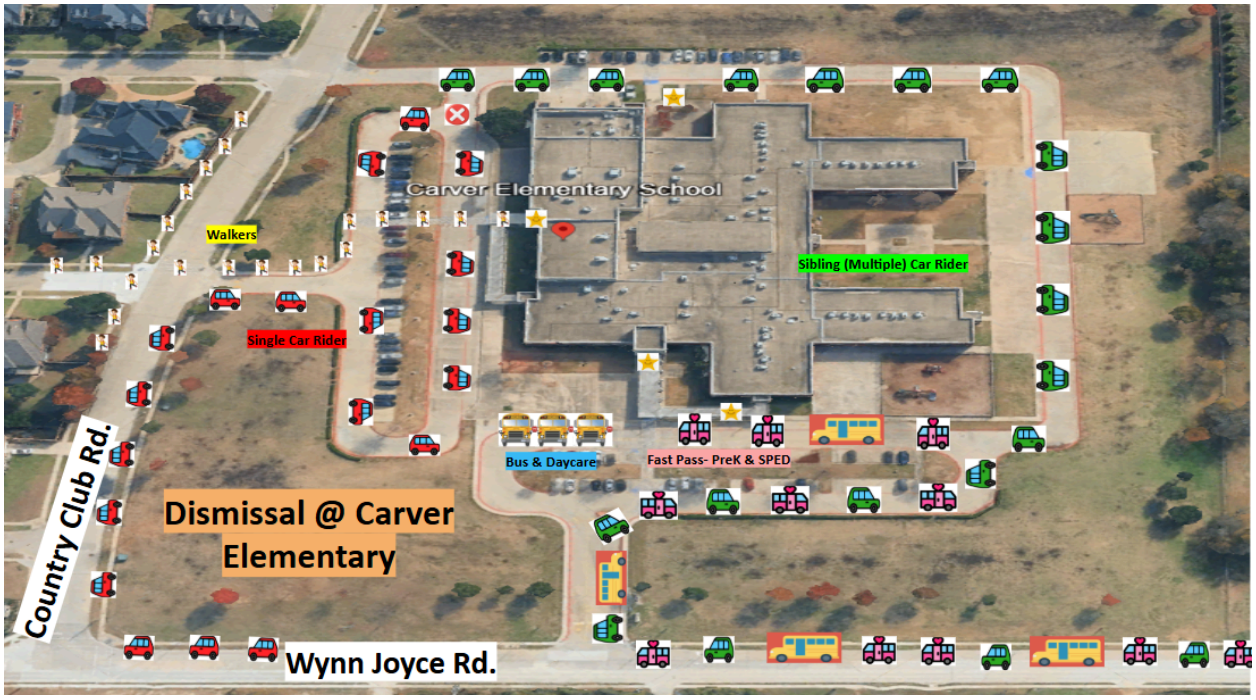
Students will leave the building promptly at 3:30 PM and walk together with staff to the designated crossing location. Staff members will remain with students until they have safely crossed the street with the assistance of the crossing guard. After all students have crossed safely, school staff will promptly return to campus to continue supervising dismissal.

Parents who wish for their child to walk home without an adult must complete and sign a Walker Contract before the school can release the student as a walker. Walker Contract-English Contrato para estudiantes caminantes

Important Change for This School Year

To enhance campus safety and improve traffic flow during dismissal, parent walk-up dismissal is no longer available. We kindly ask that all parents remain in their vehicles and use the appropriate dismissal lane for their child's assigned pick-up location.

We appreciate your partnership in following these procedures. Together, we can provide a safe, orderly, and efficient dismissal for every Carver student.



Transportation Procedures

Car Riders

- Parents should remain in their vehicles at all times.
- Staff will escort students to their vehicles.
- Students will be dismissed from their assigned dismissal area.

Walkers

- Approved walkers will exit through Door 3 and be escorted by Carver staff to the designated crossing guard on Wynn Joyce.
  G. W. Carver Walker Contract

Bus & Daycare

- Students riding the bus or daycare transportation will be escorted by a staff member to their assigned bus.
- Daycare buses will enter the campus from Wynn Joyce and load students at the front of the building.

Late Pick-Up

If you arrive after dismissal has ended, please report to the front office to pick up your child.

- Students not picked up at dismissal will wait in the front office with staff supervision.
- Please notify the front office if you anticipate being late.
- All students should be picked up by 3:45 PM.
- A pick-up card or valid government-issued photo ID is required before your child will be released.

Special Dismissal Reminder

Dismissal begins promptly at **3:30 PM**. We ask that all students be picked up as close to dismissal time as possible.

Carver staff members remain on duty after dismissal to supervise students who have not yet been picked up. However, because staff members have additional responsibilities following dismissal, students may not remain on campus for an extended period of time.

If your child has not been picked up by **4:00 PM** and the school has been unable to reach a parent, guardian, or emergency contact, the **School Resource Officer (SRO)** may be contacted to assist in ensuring the student's safety.

If an unexpected emergency or delay prevents you from arriving on time, please contact the front office as soon as possible so we can make appropriate arrangements.

We appreciate your partnership in ensuring that all students are picked up safely and on time each day.

Parking Lot Safety Guidelines

To help keep everyone safe during dismissal, please:

- Follow all staff directions and posted traffic signs.
- Drive slowly and remain alert for students and staff.
- Stay in your vehicle unless directed otherwise.
- Refrain from using cell phones while moving through the dismissal line.
- Be patient and courteous as we work together to ensure every student is dismissed safely.

Thank you for your partnership in making dismissal safe and efficient. Your patience, kindness, and cooperation help ensure every Tiger gets home safely each day.

Nutrition Services

Breakfast

Breakfast is available **free of charge** to all George Washington Carver Elementary students.

- Breakfast is served beginning at **8:00 AM**.
- Students will eat breakfast in their classrooms.

Providing students with a healthy breakfast helps ensure they are ready to learn and have a successful start to the school day.

Lunch

Lunch is also provided **free of charge** to all George Washington Carver Elementary students through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program.

Students who choose not to eat the school lunch may bring a lunch from home.

To ensure the safety and security of all students:

- Outside food deliveries are **not permitted**.
- Parents and guardians may not drop off lunches during the school day.

Parent Lunch Visits

We love welcoming our Carver families to campus! Parent and guardian lunch visits will begin **the week of September 21, 2026**, after students and staff have had time to establish strong cafeteria routines and procedures.

To help us maintain a safe, comfortable, and organized lunch environment, parent lunch days will be scheduled by grade level:

Mondays: PreK, 1st, 3rd & 5th Grade
Fridays: Kindergarten, 2nd & 4th Grade

Parents and guardians are welcome to join their child during their regularly scheduled lunch period on their designated day.

For the safety of our students, all visitors must check in through the front office and present a valid photo ID before entering the cafeteria.

To protect instructional time and support smooth transitions, families should say their goodbyes approximately 5 minutes before the end of the scheduled lunch period. This allows students time to transition back to class and prepare for

learning. Parents and guardians should exit through the front office and should not accompany students back to classrooms or other areas of the building.

Please note: There will be times throughout the school year when parent lunch visits may be paused due to state or district testing, special events, campus activities, altered schedules, or other campus needs. We will make every effort to communicate these dates with families in advance through ClassDojo and the Carver Tiger Newsflash.

We look forward to having you join your Tiger for lunch! Thank you for your flexibility and partnership as we work together to maintain a safe, welcoming, and organized campus.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

George Washington Carver Elementary participates in the **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)**, allowing all students to receive **free breakfast and lunch** each school day.

Although meals are provided at no cost, families are asked to complete the **Economic Survey Form** as part of the required Back-to-School registration process. This information helps ensure accurate student data, supports district and campus funding, and assists with state accountability requirements.

Thank you for completing this important form and helping us continue to provide valuable resources and opportunities for our students.

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential to your child's academic success. If your child is absent, a note from a parent/guardian or healthcare provider explaining the reason for the absence must be submitted within **three (3) school days** after your child returns to school. Notes may be given to your child's teacher or submitted electronically through **Skyward**.

The campus monitors student attendance, including excessive absences and partial-day absences, in accordance with district and state guidelines. We appreciate your partnership in ensuring your child attends school every day and arrives on time whenever possible.

Cell Phones

For safety purposes, students may bring a personal cell phone to school; however, all devices must remain **turned off and stored in backpacks** during the instructional day unless otherwise authorized by school staff.

Students who use a cell phone without permission during the school day will have the device confiscated and turned in to a campus administrator. After a second offense, a parent or guardian must come to the school to retrieve the device.

Medication

For the safety of all students, prescription medication may only be administered by school staff when it is provided in the **original, properly labeled prescription container** and accompanied by written authorization from the parent/guardian and the prescribing physician, as required by district policy.

If your child needs medication during the school day, please contact the school nurse or front office for assistance. Parents and guardians are also welcome to come to campus to administer medication to their child.

At **George Washington Carver Elementary**, we are committed to creating a school where every child feels safe, valued, respected, and inspired to learn. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with your family and look forward to a wonderful school year filled with learning, growth, and success.

Thank you for choosing George Washington Carver Elementary. Together, we are **Wild About Learning!**

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

We invite every Carver family to become a member of our **Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**. PTA plays an important role in supporting our students, teachers, and school community, and we encourage all families to get involved.

As a PTA member or volunteer, you'll have opportunities to:

- Support student and family events, such as Family Nights, Trunk or Treat, Field Day, and other campus activities.
- Assist teachers and staff with classroom and school projects.
- Volunteer during morning arrival, dismissal, and other campus events.
- Build meaningful connections with other Carver families and staff.
- Make a positive impact on the educational experience of every Tiger.

PTA meeting dates, membership information, and volunteer opportunities will be shared throughout the school year. We hope you'll join us and become an active partner in supporting our students and school community.

As a token of our appreciation, active PTA volunteers will be invited to participate in special volunteer appreciation events, including designated opportunities to enjoy lunch with their child during the school year.

Together, we can make George Washington Carver Elementary an even stronger place to learn, grow, and succeed. We look forward to partnering with you!

Ready to Join?

Scan the QR code below to become a PTA member and stay connected throughout the school year. Coming soon…

Additional Campus Information

Schoolwide Behavior Expectations

At George Washington Carver Elementary, we believe every student deserves a safe, respectful, and positive learning environment. Our schoolwide expectations are taught, modeled, and reinforced throughout the school year to help students develop responsibility, kindness, and positive character.

Visitors

To ensure the safety of all students and staff, all visitors must enter through the front office and present a **valid government-issued photo ID** before entering the building. All visitors must check in through the district's visitor management system and wear a visitor badge while on campus.

Attendance Frequently Asked Questions

What are the school hours?

The instructional day is 8:10 AM – 3:30 PM. Students arriving after 8:10 AM are considered tardy.

What should I do if my child is absent?

Please submit a signed parent note or healthcare provider's note within three (3) school days after your child returns to school. Notes may be submitted through Skyward or given to your child's teacher.

What is considered a partial-day absence?

Students who arrive at 8:22 AM or later will receive a partial-day absence in accordance with district attendance guidelines.

What is considered an absence?

Students who are not in attendance by 10:00 AM are considered absent. If a student leaves for a medical appointment and returns the same day with a doctor's note, the absence will not be recorded.

What should I do if my child arrives late?

Students arriving after the start of the school day must report to the front office with a parent or guardian to sign in before going to class.

Why is daily attendance important?

Regular attendance is one of the strongest predictors of academic success. We encourage families to schedule appointments outside of the school day whenever possible and ensure students attend school every day they are healthy enough to do so.

Is there a limit to parent notes?

Garland ISD accepts up to six parent notes per semester. Once this limit has been reached, additional absences may require documentation from a healthcare provider.

Where can I find more information?

Additional attendance requirements and state compulsory attendance laws can be found in the Garland ISD Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.

For additional attendance requirements, please refer to Garland ISD attendance guidelines.

Celebrating Birthdays

We love celebrating our students!

If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday at school, please contact your child's teacher in advance to make arrangements.

Celebrations are held during the **last 15 minutes of the instructional day**.

The following items may be brought to school:

- Individually wrapped, store-bought snacks
- Store-bought cupcakes
- Individually packaged juice drinks

For the safety of all students, homemade treats and other food items are not permitted.

Counselor Information

Mrs. Mauga: M-Z ext. 45956 Room: 203

Ms. Martin: A-L ext. 45943 Room: 223

Counselor Referrals

A visit with the counselor can be requested in three ways: your student can fill out a referral form, your student's teacher can request a visit on their behalf, or you, as a parent, may call or email a counselor directly. Please note: without a signed permission form on file, counselors may only meet with a student for a single initial check-in. To allow follow-up visits, complete the permission form included in the back-to-school forms in Skyward. If you need to update this form at any time, please reach out to the school for assistance.

Outside agency referrals: Throughout the year, you may need referrals for outside agencies for various reasons. When you reach out to us, we send a list of outside agencies home with your student. We are providing the sheet here in case the form gets lost or never makes it home. Referral Agencies 26-27

Child Find

Child Find referrals start at the district level and are handled through the counseling office. If you have younger children (4 and under) that need a speech evaluation or have a suspected disability, the link to begin the process is here: Child Find Referral Form. This form is also good for school-aged children who live in the GISD boundaries, but attend a private or charter school and need an evaluation.

Special Education Referrals

Parent Requests: If you need to request an evaluation for your child, you can reach out to your child's teacher. You can send an email to the teacher with the student's name and ID, your name, and the difficulty your student is having. The teacher will pass along the email or information from the phone call to the counselors, who will call, speak with you, and send the necessary paperwork home for you to fill out and return. If there are any questions about the paperwork, you can always call the counselors for assistance.

Counselor Resources

In addition to the outside agencies listed on the district link, we have clothing and food referrals that are available throughout the school year. For assistance such as utilities and rental assistance, Findhelp.org is the best resource to find specific resources by area of need and zip code.

Weekly Food Program

Childhood Hunger Initiative Power Pack (CHIPP) is a program hosted by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, **Alpha Alpha Omicron Omega** Chapter in partnership with the staff and teachers of George Washington Carver Elementary School. Ask your child's teacher for the forms you need to complete to sign your child up for this program.

Clothing Assistance

Trusted World is an organization that provides clothing and other services to families in need throughout the year. Clothing requests are sent by the counselor on behalf of the family, and the fulfilled request is brought to the campus to be given to the student(s) confidentially and discreetly. There is a short turnaround time for the orders, so this resource is not for immediate needs.

Parent Conferences

We value open communication and encourage families to partner with us throughout the school year.

Parent conferences may be scheduled by contacting your child's teacher through:

- Email
- ClassDojo
- The Front Office

Teachers will gladly work with families to schedule a convenient conference time during their conference period.

Teacher Lunch & Conference Schedule

Please refer to the schedule below for teacher lunch and conference times.

TEACHER	Lunch	Conference	TEACHER	Lunch	Conference
Pre K/Kinder			**3rd Grade**		
Santamaria	10:15 - 10:45	9:05 - 9:55	Floyd	11:30 - 12:00	1:30 - 2:20
Jackson	10:15 - 10:45	9:05 - 9:55	Jameson	11:30 - 12:00	1:30 - 2:20
Adams	10:15 - 10:45	9:05 - 9:55	Hernandez	11:30 - 12:00	1:30 - 2:20
Huckabee	10:15 - 10:45	9:05 - 9:55	Thompson	11:30 - 12:00	1:30 - 2:20
Alvarado	10:15 - 10:45	9:05 - 9:55			
Valero	10:15 - 10:45	9:05 - 9:55			
Tran	10:15 - 10:45	9:05 - 9:55			
1st Grade			**4th Grade**		
Merriweather	10:50 - 11:20	10:00 - 10:50	Brain	12:00 - 12:30	12:30 - 1:20
Cooper	10:50 - 11:20	10:00 - 10:50	Gibbs	12:00 - 12:30	12:30 - 1:20
Gamez	10:50 - 11:20	10:00 - 10:50	Boyd	12:00 - 12:30	12:30 - 1:20
Suarez	10:50 - 11:20	10:00 - 10:50	Gonzalez	12:00 - 12:30	12:30 - 1:20
			Sepulveda	12:00 - 12:30	12:30 - 1:20
2nd Grade			**5th Grade**		
Kaur	11:00 - 11:30	11:30 - 12:20	Fisher	12:30 - 1:00	2:30 - 3:20
Schoek	11:00 - 11:30	11:30 - 12:20	Miller	12:30 - 1:00	2:30 - 3:20
Bonde	11:00 - 11:30	11:30 - 12:20	Flores	12:30 - 1:00	2:30 - 3:20
Esparza	11:00 - 11:30	11:30 - 12:20	Marquez	12:30 - 1:00	2:30 - 3:20
			Herrera	12:30 - 1:00	2:30 - 3:20
ECSE & ABC					
Equihua	10:05 - 10:40	2:00 - 2:25			
Bennis	10:45 - 11:15				
Rodriguez	10:45 - 11:15				

Thank you for partnering with us to make George Washington Carver Elementary a place where every child feels safe, valued, challenged, and inspired to learn.

Together, We Are Wild About Learning!

GISD SECURITY

GARLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Emergency & Safety Guide for Families

Our Commitment to Safety

The safety and well-being of our students, staff, and visitors is the highest priority at **George Washington Carver Elementary**. We work closely with Garland ISD, local law enforcement, fire departments, emergency medical services, and other public safety partners to ensure our campus is prepared to respond quickly and effectively during any emergency.

Our staff regularly participates in emergency preparedness training and conducts safety drills throughout the school year so students and staff know how to respond in a variety of situations.

How Families Can Prepare

Families play an important role in helping us maintain a safe school environment.

Please help us by:

- Keeping your emergency contact information current in Skyward Family Access.
- Ensuring all individuals authorized to pick up your child are listed in Skyward.
- Reminding your child to follow adult directions during all safety drills and emergency situations.
- Encouraging your child to report anything that seems unsafe or suspicious to a trusted adult at school.
- Never opening a secured exterior door for another person. All visitors must enter through the front office and follow campus visitor procedures.

During a School Emergency

If an emergency occurs at school, our first priority is the safety of students and staff.

Please remember:

- Wait for official communication from Garland ISD before coming to campus.
- Do not call the school during an emergency unless directed to do so. Phone lines must remain available for emergency responders.
- Do not come to campus unless instructed. Roads and parking areas must remain clear for emergency personnel.
- Follow all directions provided through district communication systems regarding reunification or next steps.

Official updates may be shared through:

- Skyward Family Access notifications
- Garland ISD communication platforms
- The Garland ISD website
- Official Garland ISD social media accounts

Student Reunification

If students need to be released before the end of the school day, Garland ISD will activate its reunification procedures.

Please remember:

- Bring a valid government-issued photo ID.
- Students will only be released to parents, guardians, or emergency contacts listed in Skyward.
- The reunification process takes time. Your patience helps ensure every student is safely reunited with their family.

If reunification becomes necessary, families will receive directions regarding the reunification location and procedures through Garland ISD's official communication systems, including Skyward and other district communication platforms.

SAFETY TERMS AND PROCEDURES

In the event of an emergency at your child's school, it is important to know these terms.

1. **HOLD** – The HOLD command is called to clear hallways, even during class changes. The public announcement for HOLD is: "Hold in your room or area. Clear the Halls." The HOLD command may occur to allow emergency medical services and first responders a clear path while responding to a medical emergency and to prevent students and staff from unnecessary exposure to the incident.

2. **SECURE** – The SECURE command is called when there is a threat or hazard outside of the school building. The public announcement for SECURE is "Secure! Get Inside. Lock Outside Doors. No One In – No One Out." The SECURE command may occur during violence, criminal activity in the immediate neighborhood, or a dangerous animal on the playground. The SECURE command uses the security of the physical facility as protection.

3. **LOCKDOWN** – The LOCKDOWN command is called when there is a threat or hazard inside the school building. The public announcement for LOCKDOWN is: "Lockdown! Locks, Lights, Out of Sight!" The LOCKDOWN announcement may be made in the event of a parental custody dispute, school intruder, or active shooter situation. A LOCKDOWN uses classroom security to protect students and staff from threats. A LOCKDOWN is released by the police.

4. **EVACUATE** – The EVACUATE command is called when students need to be moved from one location to another. The Evacuate protocols demand students and staff move in an orderly fashion to a pre-determined evacuation assembly point. Fire drills are considered evacuation drills. The public announcement for evacuation is: "Evacuate! To a Location." For instance, "Evacuate! To the flagpole." Students will remain at the evacuation location until the "All Clear" command is given by administrators, fire department officials, School Resource Officers or security.

5. **SHELTER** – The SHELTER command is called when the need for personal protection is necessary. Training also includes spontaneous events such as tornadoes, earthquakes or hazmat. The public announcement for shelter includes the hazard and the safety strategy. The public addresses are: "Shelter for Severe Weather! Drop, Cover and Hold" (If time permits move to predetermined shelter locations) and "Shelter for Hazmat." Students and staff are held in the building; windows and doors are closed; and all ventilation systems are shut off. Limited movement is allowed. Shelter-in-place is most effective during emergencies involving hazardous materials that produce toxic vapors outside of the facility.

FOLLOWING AN EMERGENCY

• Listen to and acknowledge your child's concerns and tap into GISD's responsive services counseling if needed: www.garlandisd.net/responsiveservices

• Provide reassurance that your child is safe and create a calm home environment using GISD social emotional learning (SEL) resources: www.garlandisd.net/sel

• Seek help from a mental health professional or request counseling services if concerns persist: www.garlandisd.net/virtualcounselor

GARLAND ISD'S SECURITY PRINCIPLES

1. Teach with classroom doors closed & locked. Restricted access saves lives.

2. Positively engage all visitors. Anyone not wearing an ID will be taken to the front office for assistance.

3. Sound the alarm. If you see something, say or do something.

4. Respond to the greater threat. For example, stay in lockdown when a fire alarm sounds unless you see smoke or fire.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY OR DO SOMETHING

The two most successful means in averting school violence are (1) positive adult relationships with students, and (2) students and parents who saw something amiss and promptly reported it.

Students and parents in GISD are urged to report anything suspicious to our 24-hour anonymous tip line, Anonymous Alerts:
www.garlandisd.net/anonymousalerts
Download the app and enter activation code “garlandisd”.

All tips are taken seriously and investigated immediately – no matter the time of day. The GISD Dispatch phone number is 972-494-8911. GISD also has a manned security dispatch center that takes emergency calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

report bullying or cyberbullying

help your friends

be assertive

report depression

SEE SOMETHING DO SOMETHING

Submit your reports anonymously

report threats against schools

report drug or alcohol use

report strange behavior

To send a report online

www.anonymousalerts.com/garlandisd

FROM YOUR SMARTPHONE OR TABLET

- Download the Anonymous Alerts® app
- Start the app, enter **Activation Code**: **garlandisd**
- Send important reports to school officials
- Add a screenshot, photo or video about the incident

Available on the iPhone App Store

GET IT ON Google play

Anonymous Alerts® report it®

GISD GARLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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