



NORCO ELEMENTARY

News from the Nest

Shannon Diodene - Principal
Annette Blanchard, Jessica Gardere, Macy LaFleur –Assistant Principals

September 2026

The school year is off to a wonderful start, and it already feels like time is flying! Our Norco Elementary Eagles are working hard, building relationships, and embracing all that this year has to offer. Students are settling into daily routines and procedures, and we are so proud of the positive energy we see throughout our classrooms, hallways, and campus each day.

This year, we are especially excited to begin implementing the 7 Mindsets, a framework designed to help students develop the attitudes, habits, and skills they need to be successful in school and in life. Throughout the year, our Eagles will learn about and practice each of the seven mindsets: Everything Is Possible, Passion First, We Are Connected, 100% Accountable, Attitude of Gratitude, Live to Give, and The Time Is Now.

Beginning in September, students will explore these mindsets through classroom lessons, conversations, and activities. We encourage families to talk with their children about what they are learning and look for opportunities to reinforce the 7 Mindsets at home. By working together, we can help our Eagles develop confidence, resilience, responsibility, gratitude, and a belief in their ability to make a difference. At Norco Elementary, our mission is to create a safe, loving environment in which there are high levels of learning. The 7 Mindsets will support this mission as we continue helping every Eagle grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

We also know that family involvement is a key ingredient to student success. We look forward to partnering with you throughout the year and welcoming you to school events that celebrate the learning, growth, and accomplishments of our students and staff. We encourage all families to become involved with our PTO and take advantage of the many opportunities to support and connect with our school community.

As always, if you have a concern that may affect your child's success or if you have questions, please reach out to your child's teacher, counselor, or an administrator. Open communication and strong partnerships between home and school help us provide the very best experience for every Eagle.

Thank you,
Shannon Diodene, Principal

September

7	Labor Day Holiday/No School
8-11	1 st Quarter Progress Reports going home this week
15	PTO Leadership Team Meeting at 12:00 pm
16	Faculty Professional Learning Day Students- No School
17	Fall Pictures-School uniforms must be worn
19	Breakfast with a Bright Ideas- PreK, K, and 1 st grade @ 9:15
22	General PTO meeting at 6:00 pm (Cafeteria)
23	Box Top Dress Down Day

2	Student of the Month @ 9:15—August/September
9	Breakfast with a Bright Ideas- 2 nd and 3 rd grade @ 9:15 End of 1 st Quarter
14	2 nd Quarter Begins
12-13	Fall Break/Weather Make-Up Days
15	Pink Links Dress Down
20	PTO Leadership Team Meeting at 12:00 pm
21	Volunteer Day Box Top Dress Down Day
23-24	Parent/Teacher Conferences Report Cards given out at conferences Early Dismissal (12:45)
26-30	Red Ribbon Week
29	Fall Picture Make-Ups (For students that were absent on picture day September 17)
30	Trunk or Treat (students may wear Halloween costumes or shirts- no masks and must be school appropriate)

October



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ST. CHARLES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC AWARENESS NOTICE

St. Charles Parish School Board owns and operates master meter natural gas distribution systems at the schools. The gas systems consist of underground networks of pipelines. The purpose of the gas systems is to provide a reliable and safe economical source of energy for heating purposes. The pipeline systems have the capacity to reliably deliver natural gas.

The hazards of natural gas are that it is odorless, colorless, tasteless, lighter than air and can ignite and/or explode with tremendous force when mixed with the right amount of air.

Prevention measures taken include:

- adding odorant to the gas to give it that distinctive smell, similar to rotten eggs, to warn us of its presence,
- testing the odorant level each calendar quarter,
- performing annual gas leakage surveys, and
- conducting periodic pipeline patrols.

The following are signs that may indicate a gas leak:

- A hissing or roaring sound (caused by escaping gas),
- A patch of dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green setting along a pipeline route,
- Blowing dirt, grass or leaves near a pipeline,
- Continuous bubbling in wet, flooded areas,
- A "gas smell", similar to rotten eggs.

Anyone who may smell this odor or notice any unusual conditions on or near gas mains, vents, service lines, meter sets, or especially inside of a building should call the St. Charles Parish School Board immediately. If you smell a strong gas odor inside a building, notify everyone in the building to leave. Do not operate any switches or use the phone. Go a safe distance away upwind of the gas smell. With any gas leak protect life first then property, then notify St. Charles Parish School Board.

State and federal laws require excavators to notify LA One-Call 2 full working days before digging. If any excavation is planned you must notify LA One-Call which will notify the St. Charles Parish School Board to locate the gas lines. The St Charles Parish School Board maintains membership in the LA One-Call program.

To obtain additional information or report a gas related issue call the St. Charles Parish School Board at 985-331-3600. The LA One-Call Center phone number is 811.

Transportation

All notes must be given in writing, brought in with the student or emailed to:

norcobus@wearescpss.org by 2:30p.m. each day and by 11:30 a.m. on half days. All notes should be on a full sheet of paper, written with a dark color ink and include your child's full name, the teacher's name, and dates of the changes with clear instructions and your signature. If you email a transportation change, please expect an email confirmation. A transportation request form can be obtained from your child's teacher, the office or can be downloaded from our website: (www.wearescpss.org/norco) Please note at this time bus changes are not allowed.

AHERA Management Plan

Notice: In 1986 all asbestos materials were identified in all school buildings. A management plan was developed for each school as per the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). The management plan is located in a binder in the main office of each school. The binders are available for review upon request.

Since the plan was developed, most of the asbestos has been removed. In a few buildings, some floor tile still remains that contains asbestos. All of the schools meet the health requirements that pertain to the regulation. If you have any questions concerning this topic, please contact Kevin Barney, Director of Physical Plant Maintenance at 985-331-3600 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Parents/Guardians/Visitors

Each time you enter the school, you will be asked to present a valid state-issued ID. Everyone needs to check in to the main office once you are on campus. At Car Rider pickup you will be asked for a picture ID as well.

Bus ID Tags

All students should have a Bus ID Tag that was given to them during their first week of school. The IDs are not only needed for buses, they are used for breakfast and lunch.

If your child needs a replacement Bus ID, there will be a \$3.00 charge. Please email sda-vid@wearescpss.org to request a replacement ID. Thank you!

Attendance Requirements:

ELEMENTARY students shall be in attendance a minimum of 167 days a school year. Students may only be absent 10 days. ELEMENTARY students who accrue more than 10 absences will NOT be eligible for promotion. Extenuating circumstances may apply as well as excused absences for COVID-19 related absences. For more information, please refer to the 2026-2027 Student Code of Conduct District Handbook.





NORCO ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUP SCHEDULE



Come learn, play, and connect with us!

Families with young children are invited to join us for playgroup at our Family Resource Centers.

Playgroup provides a fun and welcoming opportunity for children to learn through play, build early literacy and social skills, and interact with other children while families connect with helpful resources and one another.

Playgroup Dates

Wednesday, September 23, 2026
Wednesday, October 7, 2026
Wednesday, October 21, 2026
Wednesday, November 4, 2026
Wednesday, November 18, 2026
Wednesday, December 2, 2026
Wednesday, December 16, 2026

Wednesday, January 13, 2027
Wednesday, January 27, 2027
Wednesday, February 24, 2027
Wednesday, March 24, 2027
Wednesday, April 7, 2027
Wednesday, April 21, 2027
Wednesday, May 5, 2027
Wednesday, May 19, 2027

10:00-11:00 AM

Contact Information

Mary Pevey

Liza Smith

mpevey@wearescpss.org lsmith4@wearescpss.org
(985) 764-7079

OUR PRE-K YEAR IS OFF TO A GREAT START!

We are off to a wonderful beginning in Pre-K! Our little learners are getting settled into their new classroom routines and learning what it means to be part of our classroom family. We are practicing following directions, listening during group time, taking turns, sharing, using kind words, and caring for our classroom materials.

While some routines are still new, our students are making great progress each day! We are so proud of how they are adjusting, becoming more independent, making new friends, and learning our classroom expectations.

We are excited to see all the learning and growth this year will bring!

PTO Box Top Dress Down Days!

Wednesday, September 23rd
Wednesday, October 21st
Wednesday, November 18th
Tuesday, December 8th
Wednesday, January 20th
Wednesday, February 17th
Wednesday, March 24th
Wednesday, April 21st
Tuesday, May 18th



In Ms. Billings class, first graders are using cubes to add and make numbers in different ways. Also, students are playing "Ready Set Compare" to practice the concepts of greater than and less than.



Back to School



Mrs. Weber's friends played "Ready, Set, Add!" to freshen up on their adding skills.



NORCO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

wearescpss.org



Counselor's Corner

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! We know the beginning of a new school year can be an exciting—and sometimes anxious—time for both students and parents/guardians. Our counseling department is here to support your children's social-emotional well-being and academic success throughout the year.

Please know that we are here to help with any questions, concerns, or challenges that may arise. We look forward to partnering with you to help make this school year a positive and successful experience for your child. Please see below for our contact information. We are always happy to assist!



*PreK-2nd School Counselor: Jennie Hermann, LPC, NCSC, NCC - jhermann@wearescpss.org
 3rd-5th School Counselor: Stacey Noel, LPC, NCC - snoel@wearescpss.org
 School-Based Mental Health Professional: Anne Becnel, LPC - abecnel2@wearescpss.org*



@norcoelementaryschool



@norcoelementaryschool



@SCPPS_NES



Our amazing NES PTO has a Facebook page!

Look up Norco Elementary School PTO and follow!

This account is run by the NES PTO parents and is not an official SCPPS account.

We are the parents of Norco Elementary students who are looking to support the faculty and students.



- **The 5th grade band** is now up and running! Their band schedule is Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays each week. Please make sure that your child is practicing the required 100 minutes weekly and turning in the practice reports.
- **The 4th grade band** is approaching "functional mode". By now, all should be settled into their instruments and parents should be hearing some interesting sounds at home. Please be reminded that practice reports must be turned in weekly. Home practice is vital for a successful band student. If you have any questions please email me at ddavis@wearescpss.org and please join your child's google classroom as it contains all necessary band information and is updated often. Schedules are as follows:

- ◇ **Brass & Percussion** = Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
- ◇ **Woodwinds** = Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

- Students must transport instruments to and from school on their scheduled class days. Please do not allow them to leave instruments at school. Thanks and I look forward to a great year.

Department of Bands
Daniel Davis, Director
ddavis@wearescpss.org





Flu Information

Flu:

A Guide for Parents



Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat and lungs. Flu is different from a cold and usually comes on suddenly. Each year flu causes millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations, and tens of thousands of deaths in the United States.

Flu can be very dangerous for children. CDC estimates that between 2010 - 2020, between 6,000 and 27,000 children younger than 5 years old have been hospitalized from flu each year in the U.S. Flu vaccine is safe and helps protect children from flu.

What parents should know

How serious is flu?

While flu illness can vary from mild to severe, children often need medical care because of flu. Children younger than 5 years old and children of any age with certain long-term health problems are at increased risk of flu complications like pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus and ear infections. Some health problems that are known to make children more vulnerable to flu include asthma, diabetes and disorders of the brain or nervous system.

How does flu spread?

Flu viruses are thought to spread mainly by droplets made when someone with flu coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people nearby. A person also can get flu by touching something that has flu virus on it and then touching their mouth, eyes, or nose.

What are flu symptoms?

Flu symptoms can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, feeling tired and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea (more common in children than adults). Some people with flu will not have a fever.

Protect your child

How can I protect my child from flu?

The first and best way to protect against flu is to get a yearly flu vaccine for yourself and your child.

- Flu vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months and older every year. Flu shots and nasal spray flu vaccines are both options for most children.
- It's especially important that young children and children with certain long-term health problems get vaccinated.
- Caregivers of children at higher risk of flu complications should get a flu vaccine. (Babies younger than 6 months are at higher risk for serious flu complications, but too young to get a flu vaccine.)
- Pregnant people should get a flu vaccine to protect themselves and their baby from flu. Research shows that flu vaccination during pregnancy can protect the baby from flu for several months after birth.
- Flu viruses are constantly changing so flu vaccines are updated often to protect against the flu viruses that research indicates are most likely to cause illness during the upcoming flu season.

Are flu vaccines safe?

Flu vaccines have an excellent safety record. Millions of people have safely received flu vaccines for decades. Flu shots and nasal spray flu vaccines are both options for vaccination. Different types of flu vaccines are licensed for different ages. Each person should get one that is appropriate for their age. CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend an annual flu vaccine for all children 6 months and older.

What are the benefits of getting a flu vaccine?

- A flu vaccine can keep you and your child from getting sick.** When vaccine viruses and circulating viruses are matched, flu vaccination has been shown to reduce risk of getting sick with flu by about 40 to 60%.
- Flu vaccines can keep your child from being hospitalized for flu in the pediatric intensive care unit.** One recent study showed that flu vaccine reduced children's risk of flu-related pediatric intensive care unit admission by 74%.
- Flu vaccine can be life saving in children.** A study using data from recent flu seasons found that flu vaccine reduced the risk of flu-associated death by half among children with higher risk medical conditions



and by nearly two-thirds among children without medical conditions.

- **Flu vaccination also may make your illness milder if you do get sick.**
- **Getting yourself and your child vaccinated also can protect others** who may be more vulnerable to serious flu illness, like babies and young children, older people, and people with certain long-term health problems.

What are some other ways I can protect my child against flu?

In addition to getting a flu vaccine, you and your child should take everyday actions to help prevent the spread of germs.

Stay away from people who are sick as much as possible to keep from getting sick yourself. If you or your child are sick, avoid others as much as possible to keep from infecting them. Also, remember to regularly cover your coughs and sneezes, wash your hands often, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, and clean surfaces that may be contaminated with flu viruses. These everyday actions can help reduce your chances of getting sick and prevent the spread of germs to others if you are sick. However, a yearly flu vaccine is the best way to prevent flu illness.

If your child is sick

What can I do if my child gets sick?

Talk to your doctor early if you are worried about your child's illness.

Make sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks enough fluids.

If your child is 5 years or older and does not have a long-term health problems and gets flu symptoms, including a fever and/or cough, consult your doctor as needed.

Children younger than 5 years old – especially those younger than 2 years – and children of any age with certain long-term health problems (including asthma or any lung disease, heart disease, diabetes and disorders of the brain or nervous system), are at higher risk of serious flu complications. Because children at higher risk of serious flu complications can benefit from early antiviral treatment of flu, parents of such children should contact their child's doctor if they develop flu symptoms.

What if my child seems very sick?

Even healthy children can get very sick from flu. If your child is experiencing the following emergency warning signs, you should go to the emergency room:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Bluish lips or face
- Ribs pulling in with each breath
- Chest pain

- Severe muscle pain (child refuses to walk)
- Dehydration (no urine for 8 hours, dry mouth, no tears when crying)
- Not alert or interacting when awake
- Seizures
- Fever above 104°F
- In children less than 12 weeks, any fever
- Fever or cough that improve but then return or worsen
- Worsening of chronic medical conditions



This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptom that is severe or concerning.

Is there a medicine to treat flu?

Yes. Antiviral drugs are prescription medicines that can be used to treat flu illness. They can shorten your illness and make it milder, and they can prevent serious complications that could result in a hospital stay. Antivirals work best when started during the first two days of illness. Antiviral drugs are recommended to treat flu in people who are very sick (for example, people who are in the hospital) or people who are at higher risk of serious flu complications who get flu symptoms. Antivirals can be given to most children and pregnant people.

How long can a sick person spread flu to others?

People with flu may be able to infect others from one day before getting sick to up to five to seven days after. Severely ill people or young children may be able to spread the flu longer, especially if they still have symptoms.

Can my child go to school, day care, or camp if he or she is sick?

No. Your child should stay home to rest and to avoid spreading flu to other children or caregivers.

When can my child go back to school after having flu?

Keep your child home from school, day care, or camp for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone. (The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) A fever is defined as 100°F (37.8°C)* or higher.

*Many authorities use either 100 (37.8 degrees Celsius) or 100.4 F (38.0 degrees Celsius) as a cut-off for fever, but this number can vary depending on factors such as the method of measurement and the age of the person.

For more information, visit

www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/children.htm or call 800-CDC-INFO



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention



ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH



**YOUR PRESENCE MATTERS:
EVERY DAY, EVERY CLASS,
EVERY OPPORTUNITY!**

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Research suggests that students who are chronically absent (miss at least 10% of school days) are 4x less likely to graduate from high school.

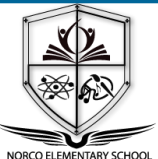
HEALTHY HABITS

Developing a routine to maintain regular attendance at school is beneficial for gaining confidence, supporting learning, and building relationships.

RESOURCES

Schools provide access to valuable resources for students such as meals, mental health supports, sports, clubs and more.

YOU BELONG HERE!



ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH



**YOUR PRESENCE MATTERS:
EVERY DAY, EVERY CLASS,
EVERY OPPORTUNITY!**



**STUDENTS WHO DO NOT HAVE ANY
UNEXCUSED ABSENCES FOR THE
MONTH OF SEPTEMBER WILL
RECEIVE A DRESS DOWN DAY
AND A COOKIE.**

SIGN UP
for our
NORCO PTO



\$5 per family!

September 2026

Box Topics

Bring on the back to school earning opportunities!

Monthly Bonus Offers

Offers are valid on a single transaction from 9/1/26-9/30/26. Must submit your receipt within 14 days of purchase. Limit 5 claims per receipt.

Buy 3, Earn 5
on Betty Crocker products

Buy 3, Earn 5
on Annie's products

Buy 2, Earn 5
on Nature Valley products

Buy 2, Earn 5
on Old El Paso products

Buy 2, Earn 5
on Chex & Chex Mix products

Find offers near you
Check out the Box Topics app!

SAVED BY THE BOX TOPS

Your hall pass

We're celebrating 30 years! Buy 1 participating product in a single transaction to get cash back!

Learn more at BTTF.com/FreeSnacks

TRIPLE the BOX TOPS TRIPLE the GOOD

Earn triple at Walmart

Participating products earn triple at Walmart from 6/1 to 9/20. Stock up on your favorites this summer and add a little oomph to your earnings!

Learn more at BTTF.com/Walmart

Ends soon!

3 easy ways to earn for our school

Scan
Qualifying receipts in the app

Submit
Qualifying digital receipts in the app

Connect
Your Walmart and Box Tops accounts

See products & learn more at BTTF.com
Don't have the BoxTopsapp? Download it now.

We have already raised over \$500 in Box Tops!

We have confirmed the dates for the Box Tops dress-down days. The first one will be on September 23rd. Each child who earned \$1.00 or more between June 3rd and August 31st will receive a dress-down pass.

Please remember that it is very important to give credit to your child in the app to receive the dress-down pass. I have attached step-by-step instructions below to help. If you have more than one child, you can add all of their names as shown in the guide. Moving forward, each dress-down day will be for the Box Tops credited during the prior month.

Additionally, we still collect Community Coffee labels. Please send them to school in an envelope marked with your child's name and grade, and we will handle the rest.

5 STEPS TO GIVE CREDIT

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

You've earned \$92.20 for schools!

[My Earnings](#)

You're a Coordinator

NORCO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jul 2026 - Jun 2027

Bonus Offers

July Challenge \$1.40

[Give Credit](#)

Add a note

Elijah Wilson Emily Wilson Tristan Bartholon

47/50

[Add](#)

1. Open your app and click on "My Earnings"

2. Click on an earning in your "Earnings History"

3. Click "Give Credit"

4. Select a grade

5. Scroll down to "Add A Note" click on the sliding bar and add each child that you want to credit

NORCO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HORCO, LA

Jul 18, 2026 Submitted

Bonus Offers

July Challenge \$1.40

[Give Credit](#)

Add a note

Elijah Wilson Emily Wilson Tristan Bartholon

47/50

[Add](#)

My Earnings

This Year All-Time

\$15.00

Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

\$21.80 Jul 2026 - Jun 2027 **\$15.00** This Month

Earnings History

Coordinator Referral Bonus Aug 18, 2025 \$5.00

Give Credit

Tell us who should get credit for this receipt and we'll make sure your earnings get counted on your school's leaderboard.

NORCO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

☐ Pre-K

☒ Kindergarten

☐ Grade 1

☐ Grade 2

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BE ON THE LOOKOUT

FOR A FUTURE SWAG ORDER FORM!

Orders from the **FIRST ROUND** ARE CURRENTLY CLOSED.



NORCO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

wearescpss.org

