SWEETWATER Pelican Press

Sweetwater Elementary, the highest performing elementary school in Port Orange
http://schools.volusia.k12.fl.us/sweetwater/
386-322-6230 school phone #
386-506-0012 school fax #

September 2026

Volume 33, Issue 1

As we begin week four of the school year and welcome September, I want to take a moment to thank our families for helping make the start of the 2026–2027 school year such a positive one. Our Pelicans have settled into their routines and are actively engaged in learning each day. Our teachers are thoughtfully preparing meaningful and engaging lessons, while our entire staff continues to work together to support our students, families, and school community.

We are also excited to share that The Bahama House in Daytona Beach has officially adopted Sweetwater Elementary School! We are grateful for this new community partnership and look forward to the many ways it will support and celebrate our Pelicans throughout the year.

Our Sweetwater PTA is also off to a fantastic start! With fundraising already underway and fun events being planned, we are excited about the opportunities ahead to bring our students, staff, and families together. We appreciate the time, energy, and enthusiasm of everyone who helps make these experiences possible.
As we move further into the school year, our priorities remain clear: maintaining a safe and secure campus and providing an academically focused learning environment where every student can learn, grow, and succeed. These commitments guide the work we do each day.

Thank you, Sweetwater families, for a wonderful start to the school year and for the continued support, encouragement, and partnership you provide every day. Together, we are creating an environment where our Pelicans can thrive, and we are looking forward to a great September!

Alisha K. Zarbo

Sweetwater Mission Statement

We, the caring community of learners at Sweetwater Elementary, strive toward a lifetime of achieving our "personal best", guided by a positive attitude in a nurturing environment.

Volusia County Schools Mission Statement

"Through the individual commitment of all, our students will graduate with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to be successful contributors to our democratic society."

Pelican Press



Follow us on Facebook:

@Sweetwater Elementary Pelicans

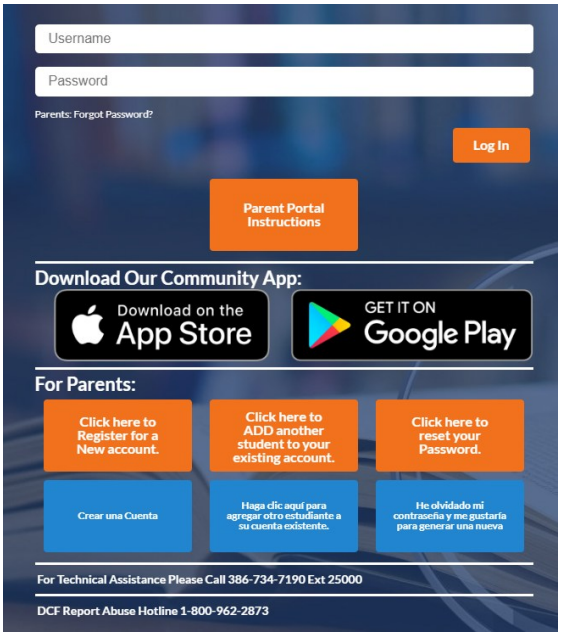
Stay Connected!

sweetwater.vcsedu.org

Join Parent Portal:

1. Go to vcsedu.org
2. Click on Parents/Students
3. Click on Portals
4. Follow the steps to create a Parent Portal account!

This will allow you to view your child's grades (and even set alerts to notify you, as grades change), pay for field trips, complete online forms, etc.





Arrive Before 7:50

This is a reminder that students must be IN their classroom by 7:50. We have supervision on campus beginning at 7:20, and the first bell rings at 7:40, for them to enter their classrooms. Please leave home early enough so that you are not caught in traffic! Thank you!



Pelican Press



Welcome back to school! We hope that everyone had a healthy, active summer. A few reminders for a successful year in P.E. are:

1. Please make sure your child wears sneakers to P.E. **This is a requirement** and a district rule. For safety reasons, students wearing shoes other than sneakers will **not** be able to participate in PE activities. Sandals, Crocs, boots, etc. do not provide the necessary support and traction.

2. Please make sure your child dresses appropriately for the weather. It is very hot outside, so jeans and long sleeves are not the optimal P.E. attire until the cooler weather arrives.

3. Encourage your child to drink plenty of water during the day and at lunch. Proper hydration is very important in this heat. PLEASE do not send your child with sweetened drinks to PE. We do our very best to keep the ants at bay in our PE areas, but when any drink other than water is spilled, the ants will come!

4. If your child has an injury or illness that prevents them from participating in P.E., please send a written note so that we are aware. If he/she doesn't have a note, then participation is expected.

During students' first week of P.E., we discussed our P.E. expectations, rules, and consequences. We have a lot of FUN while learning during our P.E. classes, but we are very mindful of students' safety and always expect students to display their best Sweetwater behavior. Our consequences are as follows: **1.** Warning **2.** Time-out from the P.E. activity to reflect on what behavior needs to be corrected. **3.** If a behavior isn't corrected after a warning and time out, your child will come home with a yellow P.E. note to be signed by a parent/guardian and returned the following day. Please discuss with your child what is expected and acceptable behavior during P.E. A student will not be allowed to participate in P.E. until we receive the signed note. **4.** Office Referral

We are looking forward to a fantastic year and greatly appreciate your support!
Coach Cooney and Coach K :)

Counselor's Corner

News From Ms. Howard
September~ 2026



Welcome Back, Sweetwater Families!

I hope everyone had an awesome summer filled with fun, family, and plenty of memories. As we begin a new school year, I'm excited to see our students return and watch them learn, grow, and shine! Remember, every day is a new opportunity to make a friend, try something new, and be your very best self. **Let's make this a fantastic year together!**

— Ms. Howard, School Counselor

Pelican Packs Available

Sweetwater Elementary School is offering a program that provides kid-friendly, pre-packaged food items for some of our students on the weekends. This program, Pelican Packs, was started by Andrew Galloso, a former Sweetwater student, as part of his Eagle Scout project.

We are offering this program to any families in need. Students must have parent permission to participate. If you would like your child to participate in the Pelican Pack Program, please call and leave a message on my private voicemail.

How to contact the school counselor:



Ms. Tina Howard

TMHoward@volusia.k12.fl.us

386-322-6230

Extension: 33497

SHOUT OUT

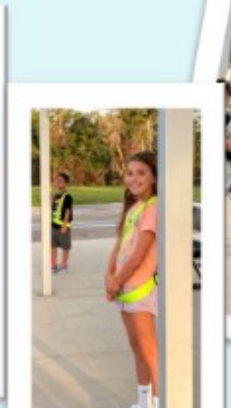
TO OUR 5TH GRADE LEADERS!~

Have you seen our fantastic 5th grade leaders? These student, representing Sweetwater for the 2026-2027 school year, are shining as members of the Safety Patrol and Kindness Club. They have been hard at work from day one welcoming everyone back on campus, monitoring outside classrooms in the mornings and assisting with escorting students to class.















September PTA News

Welcome to our new and returning Pelicans!

We are so excited for another year full of fun events for our children and our community!

Join the Sweetwater PTA- Join here: http://sweetwater.givebacks.com/store

JOIN PTA

★ All classes that achieve 100% membership will receive an ice cream party! (*Alternative options available for anyone with allergies*)

Kona Ice

- **Starts:** Thursday, September 3rd
- **Repeats:** Every Thursday (unless announced otherwise)
- **Cost:** $3 cash or pre-order wristbands on Givebacks
- Reusable cups are for sale for $5 through our store as well (or can be purchased for $5 cash on Kona day). This cup only gives students a larger portion of ice each week. They still need to bring the $3 for the refill each week (or have a pre-paid wristband.)

Important: No money or cup drop-offs during the day. Please pre-order wristbands and send students ready for Kona!

SWEETWATER ELEMENTARY DONATION DRIVE

PTA's First Big Fundraiser of the Year! Our Donation Drive Fundraiser kicks off and runs for the entire month of September. Donation drive proceeds fund our Teacher Mini-Grant Program where each grade level as well as individual Sweetwater teachers submit grants for classroom needs, educational supplies and enrichment activities and PTA helps fulfill those requests! Last year we funded classroom enrichment experiences, SSYRA books, classroom headphone sets, area carpets, musical instruments, and so much more! Donations are due by October 2nd to qualify for prize level parties.

⭐**Mark your calendars for the 1st Spirit Night of the year at Giuseppe's:**
Wednesday, September 9th ALL DAY, Open-Close!
A portion of all sales will be donated back to Sweetwater

Steel City GIUSEPPE'S PIZZA

Thank you for making Sweetwater the amazing school it is!

For all Sweetwater gear, Kona Bands, Donation Drive, Sponsorship and more, visit:
http://sweetwater.givebacks.com/store

Please display your car tag to pick up students!



If you don't have a car tag, you'll be asked to park & show your ID in the office.

For Parents

- **If you drive your children to school, drop them off and pick them up in the designated drop-off/pick-up area identified on each campus.**
- Be especially alert for student drivers on high school campuses.
- When turning at an intersection, be sure to yield to pedestrians and cyclists.
- If your child is walking to school or a bus stop, plan a safe route and make sure your child knows the route and can navigate it safely. Choose the most direct route with the fewest street crossings. If a school crossing guard is available, be sure that your child crosses at that location. If your child is young or is walking to a new school, walk the route with them beforehand and continue to walk with them for the first week or so until they feel comfortable with the route.
- **Do not use a cell phone while in the school zone or on campus**.

For Students Who Ride the Bus

- Stay out of the street while waiting for the bus.
- Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and the doors open before approaching the bus from the curb.
- Make sure you remain in clear view of the bus driver.
- Look both ways before crossing the street to get on the bus.
- After getting off the bus, look both ways and then move immediately onto the sidewalk and out of traffic.

For Walkers/Bike Riders

- For bike riders, wear a helmet at all times. Research shows that this simple act can reduce the risk of head injury by up to 85 percent.
- Bike riders should ride on the right, in the same direction as traffic, and use appropriate hand signals. Bicyclists also should respect traffic lights and stop signs.
- Walk or bike with a friend. It's safer that way.
- Walk on sidewalks where available.
- Always cross at intersections not mid-block.
- Both bikers and walkers should wear bright clothing to make them more visible to drivers.
- To avoid distractions, bikers and walkers shouldn't use a cell phone or headphones while riding or walking.

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	PTA - Donation Drive Begins	1	2 Early Release 1:30 pm Positivi-Tee Shirt Day	3 Lion King Musical Shirt Day PTA - Kona Ice Begins	4 Sweetwater Spirit Shirt Day	5
6	7 NO SCHOOL Labor Day Holiday	8 SAC Meeting 2:45pm KG - PM1 Literacy Test	9 Early Release 1:30 pm Positivi-Tee Shirt Day 1st/2nd - PM1 Reading Test	10 Lion King Musical Shirt Day PTA - Kona Ice KG - PM1 Math Test	11 Sweetwater Spirit Shirt Day Baton/Dance 2:30pm 1st/2nd - PM1 Math Test	12
13 National Grandparents Day	14 KG/1/2 - PM1 Make-Ups	15	16 Early Release 1:30 pm Positivi-Tee Shirt Day	17 Lion King Musical Shirt Day PTA - Kona Ice PTA - General Mtg 4:30 pm OPEN HOUSE 5:30-7:00pm	18 Sweetwater Spirit Shirt Day Baton/Dance 2:30pm Pizza w/ the Principal 12pm Fall Picture Day	19
20	21 NO SCHOOL Professional Learning Day	22	23 Early Release 1:30 pm Positivi-Tee Shirt Day Musical Auditions 1:30-5:00	24 Lion King Musical Shirt Day PTA - Kona Ice Good News Club 2:35pm Musical Auditions 2:30-5:00	25 Sweetwater Spirit Shirt Day Baton/Dance 2:30pm KG - Johnny Appleseed Day 8:00-10:00am	26
27	28	29	30 Early Release 1:30 pm Positivi-Tee Shirt Day FFEA Meeting 1:30-2:30			

OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Lion King Musical Shirt Day PTA - Kona Ice 3rd-5th - VBA1 Math Test 2nd - STEM Bus Good News Club 2:35pm	2 Sweetwater Spirit Shirt Day Baton/Dance 2:30pm PTA - Donation Drive Ends	3
4	5 World Teacher's Day	6 3rd-5th - VBA1 ELA Test	7 Early Release 1:30 pm Positivi-Tee Shirt Day	8 Lion King Musical Shirt Day PTA - Kona Ice Good News Club 2:35pm	9 Sweetwater Spirit Shirt Day Baton/Dance 2:30pm 1st 9-weeks Ends	10
11	12 NO SCHOOL Teacher Duty Day	13 2nd 9-weeks Begins	14 Early Release 1:30 pm Positivi-Tee Shirt Day KG - Science Day 9-10am	15 Lion King Musical Shirt Day PTA - Kona Ice Good News Club 2:35pm	16 Sweetwater Spirit Shirt Day Baton/Dance 2:30pm Pizza w/ the Principal 12pm PTA - Trunk or Treat Event	17
18	19	20 5th - Field Trip to Peabody	21 Early Release 1:30 pm Positivi-Tee Shirt Day 2nd - Spooky Story Night	22 Lion King Musical Shirt Day PTA - Kona Ice Good News Club 2:35pm	23 Sweetwater Spirit Shirt Day Baton/Dance 2:30pm	24
25 PTA - Donation Drive Parties this week	26	27	28 Early Release 1:30 pm Positivi-Tee Shirt Day Fall Picture Retakes	29 Lion King Musical Shirt Day PTA - Kona Ice Good News Club 2:35pm	30 Sweetwater Spirit Shirt Day Baton/Dance 2:30pm KG - Fall Rotations 9-10am	31 Happy Halloween!!!

Elementary Breakfast

September 2026

*Menus are subject to change

Breakfast Prices:
Students: Complimentary
Adults and visiting children: $4.00
Prepay at MySchoolBucks.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Monday 31	Tuesday 1	Wednesday 2	Thursday 3	Friday 4
	Chicken Biscuit Cinnamon Crumble Mocha Crumble Cocoa Bar Bundle Peach Cup Orange Citrus Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	Sausage Griddle Strawberry Yogurt Parfait Glazed Dunkin Stick Mandarin Oranges Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	Bacon Egg & Cheese on a Sweet Bun Banana Bread Pop Tart Bundle Tater Tots Mixed Fruit Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	French Toast Sticks Muffin Bundle Strawberry Applesauce Cup Cinnamon Applesauce Cup Orange Citrus Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit
Monday 7	**Tuesday 8**	**Wednesday 9**	**Thursday 10**	**Friday 11**
	Chicken Griddle Banana Bread Glazed Dunkin Stick Pear Cup Orange Citrus Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	Sausage Biscuit Peach Yogurt Parfait Muffin Bundle Mixed Fruit Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	Egg & Cheese on a Sweet Bun Cinnamon Muffin Square Cocoa Bar Bundle Tater Tots Peach Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	French Toast Sticks Pop Tart Bundle Strawberry Applesauce Cup Cinnamon Applesauce Cup Orange Citrus Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit
Monday 14	**Tuesday 15**	**Wednesday 16**	**Thursday 17**	**Friday 18**
Chicken and Waffle Sticks Cinnamon Crumble Mocha Crumble Pop Tart Bundle Peach Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	Sausage Biscuit Blueberry Donut Holes Powdered Donut Holes Cocoa Bar Bundle Strawberry Applesauce Cup Cinnamon Applesauce Cup Orange Citrus Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	Pancake Bites Strawberry Yogurt Parfait Muffin Bundle Pear Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	Bacon Egg & Cheese on a Sweet Bun Cinnamon Crumble Mocha Crumble Banana Bread Tater Tots Peach Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	French Toast Sticks Pop Tart Bundle Strawberry Applesauce Cup Cinnamon Applesauce Cup Orange Citrus Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit
Monday 21	**Tuesday 22**	**Wednesday 23**	**Thursday 24**	**Friday 25**
Pancake Sausage Sandwich Powdered Donut Holes Blueberry Donut Holes Pop Tart Bundle Pear Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	Chicken Biscuit Cinnamon Crumble Mocha Crumble Cocoa Bar Bundle Peach Cup Orange Citrus Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	Sausage Griddle Strawberry Yogurt Parfait Glazed Dunkin Stick Mandarin Oranges Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	Bacon Egg & Cheese on a Sweet Bun Banana Bread Pop Tart Bundle Tater Tots Mixed Fruit Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	French Toast Sticks Muffin Bundle Strawberry Applesauce Cup Cinnamon Applesauce Cup Orange Citrus Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit
Monday 28	**Tuesday 29**	**Wednesday 30**	**Thursday 1**	**Friday 2**
Pancake Sausage Sandwich Blueberry Donut Holes Powdered Donut Holes Pop Tart Bundle Peach Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	Chicken Griddle Banana Bread Glazed Dunkin Stick Pear Cup Orange Citrus Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit	Sausage Biscuit Peach Yogurt Parfait Muffin Bundle Mixed Fruit Cup Apple Juice Cinnamon Toast Choice of Fresh Fruit		

Elementary Lunch

September 2026

*Menus are subject to change

Lunch Prices:
Students: Complimentary
Adults and visiting children: $5.00
Prepay at MySchoolBucks.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Monday	31	Tuesday	1	Wednesday	2	Thursday	3	Friday	4
		Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Turkey & Cheese Croissant Side Salad Sweet Potato Crinkle Fries Grape Tomatoes Pear Cup Strawberry and Cream Sidekick Choice of Fresh Fruit		Cheeseburger PB Cup Bundle Side Salad Baked Beans Grape Tomatoes Frozen Pineapple Wedges Choice of Fresh Fruit		Stuffed Cheese Sticks Cobb Salad Steamed Broccoli Cucumber & Tomato Dippers Strawberry-Kiwi Slushie Peach Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit		Spaghetti with Meat Sauce Texas Toast Boneless Chicken Salad Rolls Garlic Roasted Green Beans Celery Sticks Cinnamon Applesauce Cup Strawberry Applesauce Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit	

Monday	7	Tuesday	8	Wednesday	9	Thursday	10	Friday	11
		Mozzarella Bites Muffin Bundle Garlic Roasted Green Beans Grape Tomatoes Strawberry and Cream Sidekick Peach Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit		Cheese Bread Pepperoni Cheese Bread PB Cup Bundle Corn Cucumber & Tomato Dippers Mandarin Oranges Choice of Fresh Fruit		Beef Nachos Tortilla Chips Cheese Sauce Ham & Cheese Salad Rolls Cheesey Refried Beans Carrots Strawberry-Kiwi Slushie Mixed Fruit Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit		Chicken Alfredo Texas Toast Taco Salad Steamed Broccoli Celery Sticks Cinnamon Applesauce Cup Strawberry Applesauce Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit	

Monday	14	Tuesday	15	Wednesday	16	Thursday	17	Friday	18
Macaroni & Cheese Texas Toast PBJ Bundle Garlic Roasted Green Beans Carrots Strawberry-Kiwi Slushie Pear Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit		Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Muffin Bundle Steamed Broccoli Grape Tomatoes Frozen Pineapple Wedges Choice of Fresh Fruit		Chicken Wings Chicken Wings w/ Teriyaki Sauce Biscuit PB Cup Bundle Baked Beans Cucumber & Tomato Dippers Strawberry and Cream Sidekick Mixed Fruit Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit		Hot Dog Grilled Fajita Chicken Salad Rolls Potato Smiles Carrots Strawberry Applesauce Cup Cinnamon Applesauce Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit		Chicken Sandwich Spicy Chicken Sandwich Cobb Salad Side Salad Corn Celery Sticks Peach Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit	

Monday	21	Tuesday	22	Wednesday	23	Thursday	24	Friday	25
Teriyaki Chicken Tangerine Chicken Teriyaki Noodles PBJ Bundle Steamed Broccoli Carrots Mandarin Oranges Fortune Cookies Choice of Fresh Fruit		Cheese Pizza Pepperoni Pizza Turkey & Cheese Croissant Side Salad Sweet Potato Crinkle Fries Grape Tomatoes Pear Cup Strawberry and Cream Sidekick Choice of Fresh Fruit		Cheeseburger PB Cup Bundle Side Salad Baked Beans Grape Tomatoes Frozen Pineapple Wedges Choice of Fresh Fruit		Stuffed Cheese Sticks Cobb Salad Steamed Broccoli Cucumber & Tomato Dippers Strawberry-Kiwi Slushie Peach Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit		Spaghetti with Meat Sauce Texas Toast Boneless Chicken Salad Rolls Garlic Roasted Green Beans Celery Sticks Cinnamon Applesauce Cup Strawberry Applesauce Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit	

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Monday	28	Tuesday	29	Wednesday	30	Thursday	1	Friday	2
Chicken & Waffles PBJ Bundle Mashed Potatoes Carrots Pear Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit		Mozzarella Bites Muffin Bundle Garlic Roasted Green Beans Grape Tomatoes Strawberry and Cream Sidekick Peach Cup Choice of Fresh Fruit		Cheese Bread Pepperoni Cheese Bread PB Cup Bundle Corn Cucumber & Tomato Dippers Mandarin Oranges Choice of Fresh Fruit					

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