



THE PANDA POST

Monthly Newsletter of Bethune and Carver Early Learning Centers

"Where a child's story begins!"

Issue Information: October 2026



Our Mission:

Our mission is to create an educational community where all children and families feel supported, loved, and respected within a collaborative learning environment that impacts student growth.

Our Vision:

We are the exemplary early childhood provider that ensures the best educational foundation for all students and families. We empower all students and families to embrace learning, achieve their personal best, and build their social, emotional and physical well-being to become lifelong learners ready to meet the challenges of the future.

Our commitment:

We partner with families and our community to create welcoming, joyful, and supportive early learning environments where every child can grow, learn, and thrive.

Administrator's Message & Welcome

Dear Families and School Community,

Welcome to the October edition of our school newsletter! As the warm summer days give way to the crisp, refreshing air of autumn, the fall season brings a renewed sense of energy and enthusiasm to our classrooms. It is such a wonderful time of year for reflection, growth, and learning.

This month, we are especially thrilled to offer so many wonderful opportunities for our families to connect, learn, and play together. Whether participating in hands-on classroom experiences at Bethune Early Learning Center and Carver Early Learning Center, or joining us for family engagement and training sessions at the Professional Learning Center in Boutte, LA, your partnership remains the heart of our community.

Thank you to our families, school board members, central office staff, teachers, and community partners for supporting our students. Your continued involvement helps make our centers strong, caring places where every child can thrive.

Warmly,

Antoinette Rodriguez

Administrator of Bethune and Carver Early Learning Centers



Monthly Calendar and Special Events

Important Dates

Date	Event	Location or Details
October 9, 2026	End of Quarter 1	BELC and CELC
October 12-13, 2026	Fall Break/Staff and Student Holiday	BELC and CELC
October 16, 2026	Play Groups	BELC and CELC at 2:30 PM
October 16, 2026	Battle on the River! DHS vs HHS Wear colors to support your school!	BELC and CELC
October 17, 2026	Family Summit- All SCP families welcome to attend (registration is not required)	Professional Learning Center, Boutte, LA @8:30 AM
October 19, 2026	Artsperience Field Trip- The Magic School Bus	BELC & CELC going to LPAC
October 20-21, 2026	Fall Pictures! @CELC	Carver Early Learning Center
October 22-23, 2026	Parent-Teacher Conferences	Early Dismissal Days
October 27, 2026	Fall Pictures! @BELC	Bethune Early Learning Center
October 28, 2026	Breakfast with my Boo! - Wear Orange and Black	BELC and CELC
October 30, 2026	Halloween Costumes (no masks)	BELC and CELC

Calendar Notes

- **Special events:** October 16- Play Groups at both centers at 2:30 PM! October 28- Breakfast with my Boo!
- **Holidays or school closures:** October 12-13, 2026- FALL BREAK- Student Holiday
- **Early dismissal days:** October 22 and October 23- (Dismissal begins at 12:30- 12:45)
- **Parent-teacher conferences:** October 22 and October 23
- **Field trips:** October 19 - Artsperience Field Trip- The Magic School Bus

Family Planning Reminder

Please mark these dates on your family calendar for dress-down days for this month:

- October 16- Battle on the River! DHS vs. HHS. Show your support by wearing your school's colors!
- October 28 - Wear Orange and Black Day - Breakfast with my Boo!
- October 30- Halloween Costume (no masks)



November Upcoming Events / Save the Dates

Looking ahead to next month

Date	Upcoming Event	Details
November 3, 2026	Election Day	Schools Closed
November 11, 2026	Professional Learning Day	Student Holiday
November 13, 2026	World Kindness Day	Wear bright colors to brighten up everyone's day!
November 18, 2026	Panda Fall Fest	Student-Only Event, Students wear fall colors
November 23-27, 2026	Thanksgiving Holiday	Student and Teacher Holiday



**Early Learning Centers
October 2026 Menus**

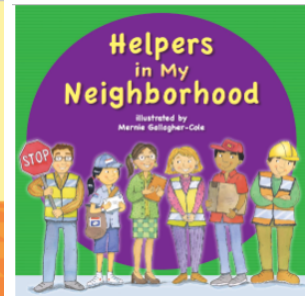
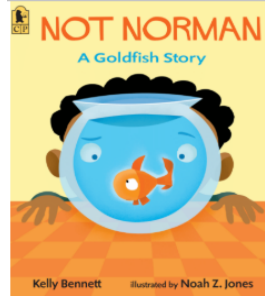
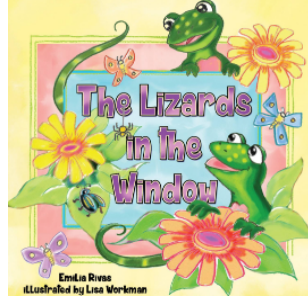
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
			Sausage biscuit, juice & milk Pork chop, macaroni & cheese, steamed broccoli, pineapple tidbits, & milk Mickey goldfish & milk	Cereal, juice, & milk Breaded chicken sliders, potato tots, orange wedges, & milk Animal crackers & fruit cup
5	6	7	8	9
Waffle, juice, & milk Chicken tenders, broccoli w/cheese, sliced peaches, & milk Blueberry muffin & milk	French toast sticks, juice, & milk Orange chicken, fried rice, edamame beans, mandarin oranges, & milk Yogurt & tiger bites graham crackers	Breakfast pizza, juice, & milk Gumbo, steamed rice, potato salad, pineapple tidbits, & milk Cheese cubes & orange wedges	Sausage biscuit, juice, & milk Meatsauce, spaghetti, green beans, banana half, & milk Cheddar goldfish & milk	Grits, juice, & milk Grilled cheese sandwich, potato tots, orange wedges, & milk Vanilla chat snax graham crackers & fruit cup
12	13	14	15	16
FALL BREAK	FALL BREAK	Breakfast pizza, juice, & milk Chili w/cheese, steamed carrots, pear halves, crackers, & milk Mozzarella string cheese & orange wedges	Sausage biscuit, juice & milk Fish nuggets, macaroni & cheese, green beans, banana half, & milk Mickey goldfish & milk	Cereal, juice, & milk Hamburger, crinkle cut fries, orange wedges, & milk Animal crackers & fruit cup
19	20	21	22	23
Waffle, juice, & milk Red beans, steamed rice, mustard greens, sliced peaches, & milk Blueberry muffin & milk	French toast sticks, juice, & milk Soft taco w/cheese, refried beans, apple wedges, & milk Yogurt & tiger bites graham crackers	Breakfast pizza, juice, & milk Chicken alfredo, broccoli florets, banana half, & milk Cheese cubes & orange wedges	Sausage biscuit, juice & milk Grilled cheese sandwich, potato tots, orange wedges, & milk EARLY DISMISSAL	Cereal, juice, & milk Breaded chicken sliders, potato tots, orange wedges, & milk EARLY DISMISSAL
26	27	28	29	30
Pancakes, juice, & milk Jambalaya, broccoli florets, pineapple tidbits, & milk Chex strawberry cereal bag & milk	French toast sticks, juice, & milk Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, baked apple slices, & milk Yogurt & cinnamon graham crackers	Breakfast pizza, juice, & milk Grilled cheese sandwich, vegetable soup, banana half, & milk Cheddar goldfish crackers & milk	Sausage biscuit, juice & milk Turkey stew, steamed rice, candied yams, strawberry cup, & milk Mickey goldfish & milk	Cereal, juice, & milk Cheese pizza, garden salad, orange wedges, & milk Animal crackers & fruit cup

Curriculum Updates

What We Are Learning This Month

PK 3 Early Childhood Classrooms

- **Focus or theme:** My Family and Friends! Students will be learning about families and friends. This theme begins with a focus on immediate family and extends to relatives, pets, and the community
- **Language and literacy:** Vocabulary words we are learning in this unit include: family, mother, father, brother, sister, fabulous, relatives, aunt, uncle, cousin, grandmother, grandfather, dog, cat, mouse, bird, fish, snake, guinea pig, rabbit, friends, loyal, different, and same. Some of the books we are reading during this unit are listed below.



- **Mathematics:** Students will begin learning the fundamental skills of sorting and classifying objects. Students will practice identifying attributes of size, sound, color, and shape.
- **Science and discovery:** This month, our young learners are using their imaginations and teamwork to design a home for our class pet! Together with their teacher, they'll figure out how to build a safe, cozy spot where their pet can move in and out freely. Then, students will put on their builder hats to craft their own unique pet homes!
- **Social-emotional learning:** Students will learn and practice balloon breathing as a strategy for calming their bodies and managing big emotions.
- **Creative arts and movement:** Students will make family portraits and friendship necklaces to reinforce the theme: My Family and Friends!

Families Can Support Learning at Home

- Read and talk about books together each day.
- Ask your child to explain what they learned at school.
- Practice new vocabulary during conversations and daily routines.
- Encourage your child to draw, build, count, sort, sing, and explore.
- Celebrate effort, curiosity, kindness, and persistence.
-

Action Item:

Please send a picture to your child's teacher (via School Status text message) reading to Pierre the Panda to enter in October's Raffle drawing by October 20, 2026.



Student Spotlight / Students in Action

Celebrate the creativity, curiosity, and accomplishments of our students!



A strong literacy foundation begins with books!

From playing and exploring to interacting and discovering, learning is happening everywhere!



Our Little Pandas had so much fun getting creative, making their own dots, and celebrating their unique ideas and abilities. We loved seeing their creativity shine!



Learning is fun in our Panda classrooms! Our little learners practiced the T sound, built tall towers, learned about circles, and sorted fruits by color.



Mrs. Pierre, Ms. Jaide, Mrs. Sherry, and Ms. Leslie's students put on their thinking caps to help them put items in order by comparing sizes!



Ms. Jones and our Pre-K 3 Pandas are having a BLAST learning all about watermelons! We used all of our senses to smell, touch, explore, and taste—and tasting was definitely our favorite! 🍉 What a refreshing, healthy treat to cool off with while learning!

Follow Us on Social Media



Stay connected with Bethune Early Learning Center, Carver Early Learning Center, and St. Charles Parish Public Schools for school news, daily updates, student activities, celebrations, and photos.

- **Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter:** @SCPPSEARLYCHILDHOOD
- **Centers' website:** <https://earlylearningcenters.wearescpss.org/>
- **District website:** <https://www.wearescpss.org/>

Follow us for:

- School announcements and reminders
- Photos of learning and special events
- Family engagement opportunities
- Student and staff celebrations

Counselor's Corner

& Website Addition:

Behavioral Health Services

St. Charles Parish Public Schools recognizes the importance of students' social, emotional, and mental well-being and supports access to appropriate behavioral health services.

In accordance with Louisiana law and School Board policy, parents/guardians may request that an approved behavioral health provider deliver medically necessary behavioral health services to their child during the school day when appropriate. Services must be coordinated with the school and provided in a manner that protects instructional time, student confidentiality, campus safety, and the orderly operation of the school.

All behavioral health providers must meet applicable legal, licensing, background-check, training, documentation, and School Board requirements before providing services on a school campus. Providers must also comply with District policies, procedures, and any required Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

For students enrolled in Pre-K, Early Learning, or Head Start programs, providers may be subject to additional state and federal requirements, including criminal background clearances, program-specific training, supervision, and health and safety standards.

Parents/guardians interested in requesting behavioral health services for their child should contact your child's school administration for information regarding the service coordination process.

For complete requirements, refer to St. Charles Parish School Board Policy 6.06.03: Behavioral Health Services for Students.

Contact Information / Important Reminders

School Office Information

- G.W. Carver Early Learning Center | 337 Gum St., Hahnville, LA 70057 | (985) 783-6617
- M.M. Bethune Early Learning Center | 13292 River Road, Destrehan, LA 70047 | (985) 764-7535

Important Reminders

CAR RIDER REMINDERS:

- Car rider Arrival is from 8:35 AM - 8:50 AM, and students arriving after 8:50 AM must be signed in at the front office.
- Dismissal for car riders begins at 3:35 PM and ends at 3:45 PM. If you arrive after 3:45 PM, it is considered a Late pickup. See your parent handbook for more information about this.
- Have your picture ID ready to show our staff when you are picking your panda up from school- every single time! This is for the safety of all of our students.

BUS RIDER REMINDERS:

- Any adult getting your child off the bus in the afternoon must be on their emergency cards and must also present a photo ID to the bus driver each day.
- Our pandas must have an adult present with them at the bus stop each morning when they are waiting for the bus. You must be visible at the bus stop when the bus arrives at your child's pickup location.

DRESS CODE REMINDERS:

- Label your child's jackets, sweaters, and sweatshirts with their first and last names.
- Ensure your child has a full change of clothes at school in the event of an accident or spill.
- Please do not send students to school with small beads, jewels, or other small hair accessories in their hair; this can present a choking hazard.

Thank You for Supporting Our Centers

Thank you for partnering with us to support the children and families of Bethune Early Learning Center and Carver Early Learning Center. Together, we create welcoming learning communities where every child is valued, supported, and encouraged to grow.

Remember to go over our daily affirmation with your panda child:

Pandas are smart. Pandas are brave. Pandas are kind. I am a PANDA!

