



SOUTHWESTERN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

600 Hunt Rd., W.E. ~ Jamestown, NY 14701

716-664-1881 ~ Fax 716-487-3170

website: <http://swes.wnvr.org>

August 2023

Dear Southwestern Students & Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We are excited to welcome everyone back into the building for another engaging, fun-filled year of learning! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and was able to relax and enjoy the nice weather. We strive to make every student feel like they belong and are part of the Southwestern Family. We also value each child's uniqueness and work to help support their growth as individuals and learners.

This July was spent having some of our students attend the Summer Enrichment Program. We spent the summer dancing, looking at the stars in the Planetarium, enjoying a Pancake Breakfast, and ended with a Pool Party, popsicle treat, and much more. Thank you to the students and staff who helped make yet another summer a success!

As we look to the new school year, we will keep our families informed to the best of our abilities. The Trojan Tribune Newsletter will continue to be sent regularly. There will also be updates on the Remind App, the school website, through our mass notification systems, and letters and flyers. If you are not receiving the newsletter, Remind notifications, or mass notifications and would like to, please call the office, and let us know.

Curriculum:

To better meet the NYS (New York State) Computer Literacy Standards, students in grades 1-5 will receive guided keyboarding lessons. These lessons will take place once in a six-day cycle.

School Day Schedule:

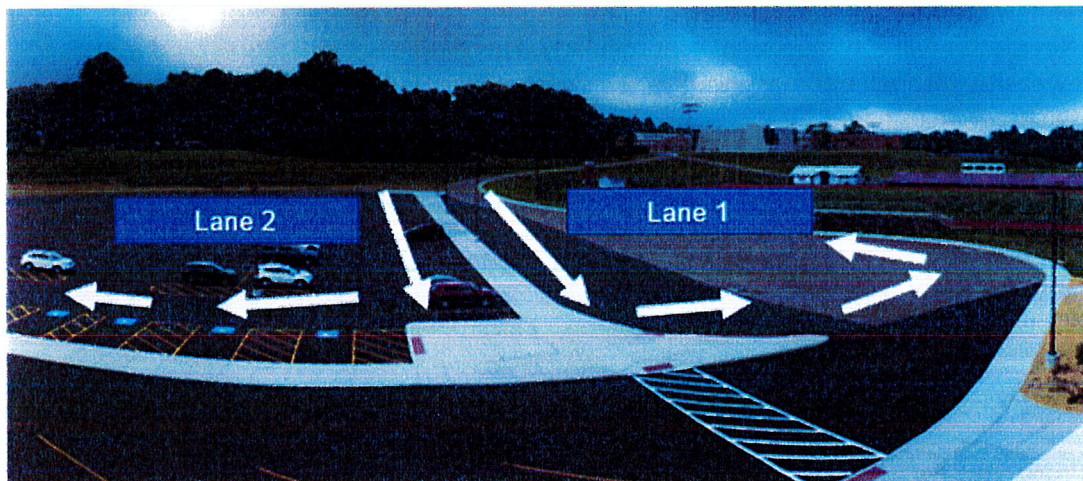
This year, we will operate in a similar schedule to last year. Below is the schedule:

- 8:35 AM: Doors Open. Please DO NOT drop off students before this time, as we do not have adult supervision.
- 8:35 AM: Any students eating breakfast will proceed to the cafeteria starting now.
- 8:50 AM: Morning Bell- Students will proceed to their classroom.
- 9:05 AM: Tardy Bell- Students should be in their classroom ready to start the day when this bell rings.
- 11:35 AM: AM Pre-K dismissal.
- 12:50 PM: PM Pre-K arrival.
- 3:15 PM: Walker Dismissal- When this bell rings, all students being picked up by a parent/guardian or other approved person will be dismissed.
- 3:20 PM: Bus Dismissal: Bus students will be dismissed.

Changes to Arrival & Dismissal:

This year, arrival/morning pick-up will be the same as last year:

- All vehicles may only enter the campus from Hunt Road. The Alleghany Avenue Entrance will be for buses only.
- Entering vehicles will form two lanes on either side of the center sidewalk. Vehicles in the first lane will exit the campus via Hunt Road. Vehicles in the second lane will exit the campus via Alleghany Avenue.
- Please do not park along the sidewalk or in the small parking lot next to lane one.
- When dropping your child off in the morning, please either park in the parking lot and walk them to the door or pull up out front and let them out on the sidewalk only. There are two sidewalk options available: one in the parking lot and one in the front of the building. This should help if you have a car seat in the back passenger seat, preventing exit from that side.
- Please do not get out of your vehicle. Helpers are available outside to assist with backpacks, etc.
- If you are dropping your child in front of the building, do not pass or skip ahead in front of other vehicles. This is a safety issue.
- Watch your speed as you drive through the parking lot. Despite our efforts and the best intentions, going too fast poses a threat to student and staff safety.
- Please do not park in the bus loop and be aware of handicap parking spots.



This year, dismissal/afternoon pick-up will be different than last year:

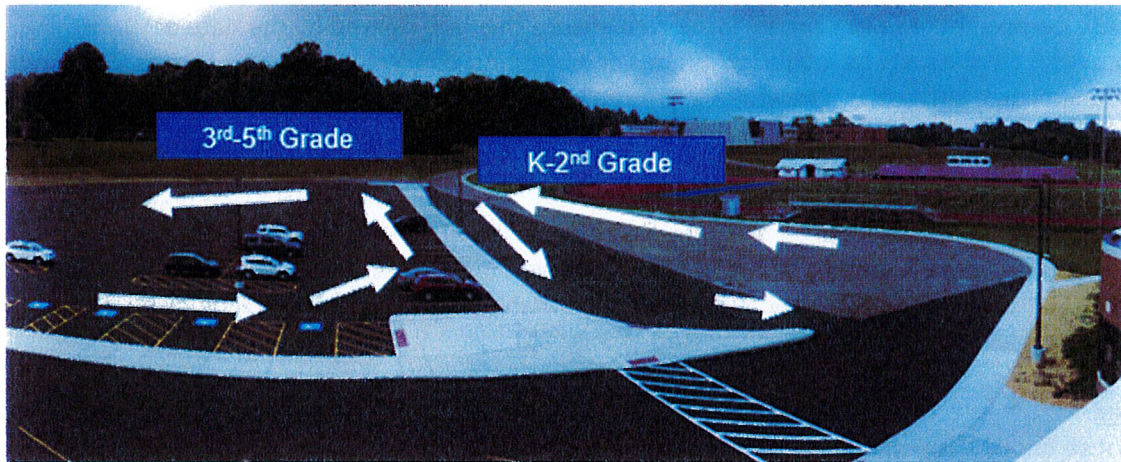
- Your child will not be released until you either pick them up in the car or walk to get them on the sidewalk. Students will not be allowed to walk across the parking lot without an adult.
- Please do not pass the car in front of you. You will need to wait until the line moves and exit single file.
- Please do not park in the drop-off or pick-up line, as it holds up traffic.
- Please do not park in the small parking lot near Lane one.
- NO students will be allowed to cross the parking lot without an adult, as this is a serious safety hazard.

Students in grades Pre-K-2

- Vehicles should enter from Hunt Road and veer to the left in Lane One and form a line at the main entrance in the old bus loop.
- Please stay in the line and do not pass the car in front of you.
- Exit Campus via Hunt Rd.

Students in grades 3-5

- Please enter from Alleghany Road and move along into Lane two,
- Please stay in the line and do not pass the car in front of you.
- Exit campus via Alleghany Ave.



If you have any questions relating to the arrival and dismissal procedures, please contact the office. Our number one priority is the safety of students, staff, and parents/guardians during these times, and we thank you for your cooperation and support in adhering to these procedures.

Transportation:

Students who rode the bus last school year will automatically be enrolled to ride the bus again this school year. UPK and Kindergarten students in need of transportation will need to register online on our district website. If your child did not ride the bus last year, but needs to this year, or there has been a change in address, please notify the transportation department.

Please be at your bus stop 10 minutes early for the first few days. After the first week, the bus route will become more established, and a regular pick-up/drop-off time will be determined.

If there are changes to your child's transportation, please call the office as soon as possible or send a note with your child. Transportation modifications cannot be accommodated after 1:30 PM.

New Staff to SWES:

We want to welcome the new staff members to our building and SWES family:

- Miss Constantino will be joining us in one of our new Special Education classrooms.
- Mr. Yachetta will be joining us in Physical Education.
- Mrs. Mason will be the Special Education teacher in our new S.C.I.S. Classroom.
- Mrs. Waite will be the General Education teacher in our new S.C.I.S. Classroom.
- Mrs. Bardo will also be joining us full-time in Occupational Therapy in the district.
- Miss Mackowiak will be joining for Speech Language Pathology in the district.
- We have also hired many new paraprofessionals this year!

Visitors:

Our number one goal is the safety of our students and staff. Visitors will be limited to appointments only. Please call the office ahead of time to make an appointment at 716-664-1881. Parents/guardians will have opportunities throughout the school year to volunteer for classroom parties and field trips. Parents/guardians MUST be Board Approved to enter the school as a volunteer. If you are not on the Board Approved List or are unsure if you are on it, please call the office. If you are not an approved volunteer and want to be, please apply in the Elementary Office. The process for board approval takes time, so please complete these in a timely fashion to ensure they are cleared by the date of volunteering. Also, families will be invited to various celebrations, concerts, and other events. Thank you for your understanding and support in working to keep everyone at SWES safe!

Start of the School Year:

We are excited to welcome students back for the first day of school on Wednesday, September 6th. Students may be dropped off starting at 8:40 AM and can wait in the main entrance until 8:50 AM. Students picked up at the end of the day by a parent/guardian or approved adult will be dismissed at 3:15 PM. Students riding the bus will be dismissed at 3:20 PM.

Open House:

The open house for UPK (Universal Pre-Kindergarten) and Kindergarten students will be Thursday, August 31, from 6:00-7:00 PM. Any students signed up for transportation can ride the bus with their family. Please contact the bus garage by August 25, to sign up for the Open House Bus Run. Students may bring their school supplies to keep in their classroom during this event.

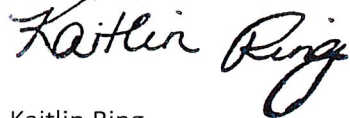
The open house for grades 1 to 5 will be Thursday, September 14th from 6:00-7:30 PM.

We look forward to meeting fresh faces and reconnecting with returning students and their families!

As we prepare for this next school year, our goal at SWES is to continue to grow relationships with students, families, and our community. The importance of these relationships has a profound effect on student success. "When parents are involved at school, the performance of all the children at school, not just their own, tends to improve. The more comprehensive and well planned the partnership between school and home, the higher the student achievement" (Henderson, Berla, 1995, p. 14-16). We appreciate your support in your child's education and look forward to a productive and engaging school year.

Please contact our office with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,



Kaitlin Ring
Elementary Principal



Julia Kinney
Elementary Assistant Principal