



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 11, 2018
<http://education.fcps.org/ses/>
WELCOME BACK!

Calendar of Events:

Mon., September 17	Grades 3, 4, and 5 to Frederick Fair
Tues., September 18	Volunteer Orientation, 9am, Media Center
Wed., September 19	No School
Mon., October 1	☺ Picture Day ☺
Fri., October 5	2-hour early dismissal for students
	Mid-term for Quarter 1

It is with great pleasure that I send out this beginning of the year newsletter. Thank you to those families that were able to join us for our Back-to-School Open House. (Thank you to the SES PG for providing pizza, drink, and cookies!) The teachers, staff and students of SES have started the year off on a very positive note! I have seen wonderful things happening in the past week. Please join me in welcoming the following new staff members to Sabillasville Elementary School:

- School Counselor Niki Kayser
- Grade 3 teachers Carol Evich and Sadie Wiles
- User Support Spec. Rebecca Parker
- Media Specialist Beth Bowen
- Music teacher Laura Smith
- Art teacher Jordan Forrest
- Special Ed Instructional Asst. Emma Little

Take Home Folders: Since communication between home and school is vital to your child's education, a Blue Take Home Folder will be coming home with your child every day. Please be sure to check this folder for important information (memos, newsletters and various correspondences). Your child's behavior calendar will also be coming home daily.

School Hours: Sabillasville Elementary School is open daily from 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Please know that children will not be allowed in the building until 8:00 a.m. Therefore, if your child is a car rider, they will not be allowed in the building until 8:00 a.m. Our morning announcements will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m., and our evening dismissal will begin at 3:05 p.m.

Attendance: The State Department of Education requires a 96.0% attendance rating to be considered an excellent rating. It is our goal to receive an excellent rating each month. SES monitors student attendance on a monthly basis. If there are concerns about your child's

attendance, you may receive a phone call and/or a letter from our school. Please be sure and make every attempt to have your child here and **on time** everyday. We do reward students for perfect attendance periodically throughout the year. If your child is late and/or leaves early or leaves school and returns later in the day, this will count against their perfect attendance status.

Absence Notes: Please remember that each time your child is absent from school that you need to provide the office with a written excuse note. We have provided each family with a packet of excuse notes (pink in color). If you run out, please call the office for more. If the school does not receive an excuse note, the absence will be recorded as unexcused.

Water Bottles in Classrooms: Due to the limited number of water fountains in our school building, students are permitted to have water bottles. The water bottles that our SES Parent Group provided to all students at the end of last school year will be perfect for this. Thank you, SES-PG!

Student Check-In Procedure: When your child is arriving late to school (after the bell rings at 8:30 a.m.) or when/if your child is returning to school after an appointment, etc., please be sure to come into the office to sign the check-in log.

Transportation Changes: A parent/guardian must send in a note to make transportation changes. Please - no emails or phone calls. If your child is riding the bus home with another student, a note is required from the parent/guardian of both students.

Car Rider Procedure: Car riders will be dismissed after the buses have departed. If you are the first vehicle to arrive, we ask that you not pull in front of the buses. The line should begin behind the buses. Buses will need to have access to the front. Please do not block any part of the entranceway, which would prohibit the buses from pulling up to the front of the building. Parents do not need to come into the building to sign out their student. Someone will come to your car with a sign out sheet. Drivers not recognized by staff must show picture identification.

Visitors and New Visitor Management System: Maryland State Law requires that all visitors report to the office. All visitors are required to "buzz in" at the intercom, identify themselves, and state the reason for their visit. Visitors should then immediately go to the front office. FCPS has installed a new Visitor Management System in all of its schools and buildings. The new system will allow schools to better track school visitors, contractors, and volunteers and provide a safer environment for all students. The new system strengthens campus safety at all of our school.

- When visitors and guests enter SES or any school or FCPS building, they will be asked to present an ID (like a driver's license, for example), which will be scanned by a card reader or manually entered by a school staff member into our new Visitor Management System.
- If someone does not have a US government-issued ID, the person can show another form of identification.

- The system checks the visitor's name and date of birth for comparison with a national database of registered sex offenders, who are not permitted on school property. No other data from the ID is gathered or recorded.
- Out of respect to the privacy of our visitors and guests, the system is not connected to any other database such as the Department of Motor Vehicles, and information is not shared with any outside agency.
- Once the ID scan is done and entry is approved, the system will issue a badge that identifies the visitor, the date, and the purpose of the visit.
- Persons without identification will only have access to the building while escorted by a school system employee.
- A visitor's badge will not be necessary for those who visit simply to drop off an item in the office or pick up paperwork.

This is a great enhancement to school security for several reasons. First, there will be consistent visitor procedures from school to school. This will make things easier for parents and guests. The system also "remembers" visitors, which will make check-in faster and more convenient for parents. The system also allows school administrators to know who is in the building at any given time. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter. Your efforts in helping us maintain a safe and secure environment for all our students is greatly appreciated.

Picture day: Fall Picture day is **Monday, October 1**. All students will be photographed for the yearbook. Order forms will be sent home soon. **Make-up day is scheduled for Tuesday, November 13**.

CommUNITY Resource Fair: On Thursday, September 13 from 6-8 p.m. at Tuscarora High School, there will be a countywide event sponsored by FCPS and Eliminating Achievement Gaps (EAG). There will be free dinner, school supplies, and a raffle. Enjoy student demonstrations. Find out what students will learn and how you can help them succeed. REGISTER HERE: <https://sites.google.com/a/fcps.org/eag/registration>

Emergency Cards: If you have not yet done so, please take the time to update and return the emergency card (Student Information Card) that was sent home the first day of school. We need this information in case we would need to contact you regarding an emergency.

Stay informed: Parent/Guardian email addresses provided to our school via your child's Student Information Card are entered into the FCPS Student Information System and uploaded to the FCPS FindOutFirst service to receive school and system-level email messages such as when schools are closing unexpectedly due to inclement weather or other emergencies. Your FindOutFirst (FOF) record will automatically reflect your child's school and grade level. From FOF you will receive instructions about how to log in to add a mobile phone number to get emergency-closing text messages. You will also receive instructions about how to sign up for system-level email such as calendar updates, newsletters, BOE action and more. If you change your email address during the school year, notify our school office so you will continue to get FOF emergency notices.

PARCC Scores: SES students who took the 2018 PARCC* or MSAA* assessments last spring (when they were in grades 3 or 4) brought home their scores on Thursday, September 6, 2018. The PARCC reports will allow parents to see their child's academic growth from one grade to the next and to monitor their child's progress toward college and career-readiness. FCPS has posted resources at www.fcps.org/PARCC where you will find more information about the PARCC score report and how the results will be used. The reports provide a useful snapshot to identify where there is room for growth, to spot strengths and help the teacher tailor instruction to student needs. It is important to remember that each state assessment provides just one measure of your child's performance.

It is not the only indicator of student progress. As always, we welcome you to contact your child's school with questions or to engage in a conversation about your child's academic progress.

Student Birthdays: Students may not distribute birthday invitations at school unless there is an invitation for everyone in the class. Thank you for being sensitive to all students' feelings. In addition, as per Wellness Regulation 400-82, families are not permitted to bring food to school to share with other students, such as to celebrate a birthday. If parents wish to share something, non-food items such as pencils, stickers, etc., are okay.

PBIS News: Just a reminder that our students are expected to demonstrate the "SES Way" each and every day they are at school. We reward students daily, weekly, and monthly with a variety of PBIS incentives. During our awards ceremonies (mid-year and end of year), we honor many students with gold star and silver star awards. The criteria for receiving a gold star are staying on green or blue 95-100% of the time and turning in their monthly calendar at the end of each month. Silver star criteria are staying on green or blue 90-94% of the time and turning in their monthly calendar at the end of each month.

Custody: If you have paperwork concerning custody of your SES student, please make sure that the office has a copy of it. Please remember that in order for your court document to be considered legal, it **MUST** be signed by a judge. Our goal is to make sure that your child is safe while in our care. A legal court order is the only way we have to be in total compliance with your custody agreement.

Conserving Paper: SES is reducing waste by providing only 1 copy per family of items such as newsletters. If a family has more than one student at SES, we will send the copy home with the oldest child.

Message from the Health Room: There are many myths about head lice. To dispel common misconceptions, here are links to a Head Lice 101 Fact Sheet: https://www.fcps.org/academics/files/documents/HeadLice_101.pdf . FCPS has posted additional resources online: https://www.fcps.org/academics/files/documents/HeadLice_Presentation.pdf . For additional resources or questions, please feel free to contact the Health Room at 240-236-6003.